



Memo

To: Superintendent Gina Butters, Weber School District Board of Education
From: Dr. Rod Belnap, Career and Technical Education Director
Date: August 24, 2026
Re: Redbird TD2 Aviation Simulators

Weber District CTE teaches a wide range of classes in aviation. Last year, in our CLNA (needs assessment) it indicated that one of the fastest growing and largest sector was in aviation/aerospace. That said, in order to give students experience that is foundational, build valuable skills preparing them for the world of work and to be Future Ready, we want to give students access to technology to grow those skills and point them to careers that are high-wage high-demand in Weber County. To do this, we want to purchase a product called the Redbird TD2 Aviation Simulators to be paid for by our Federal Perkins Grant the needed funding.

The total amount requested for purchase approval: The purchase of four Redbird TD2 Flight Simulators will provide students with access to industry-standard aviation training technology that supports Weber School District's Aerospace pathway and prepares students for high-demand careers in aviation, aerospace engineering, and unmanned aircraft systems. These simulators allow students to safely develop fundamental flight skills, navigation, instrument procedures, aeronautical decision-making, and situation awareness in a realistic, immersive learning environment. Aerospace is the biggest career in Utah.

Purchasing four simulators will enable multiple students to train simultaneously, increasing instructional capacity and ensuring equitable access for growing enrollment. The simulators will support project-based learning, strengthen partnerships with postsecondary aviation programs and industry, and provide students with authentic experiences that align with FAA training concepts and workforce expectations.

This \$57,500 investment will expand career-connected learning opportunities, enhance STEM education, and equip students with technical and durable skills that prepare them for future education, military, and careers in Utah's rapidly growing aerospace industry.

We have budgeted a total of \$57,500.00 to purchase 4 of these cutters each costing 14,375 and enhance the aviation program at our new Catalyst CTE Center. They will be used in multiple classes from welding to machining to engineering and design and art. None of this money will come from district CTE, instead it is funded from the Federal Perkins Grant written by WSD CTE.

CTE would be happy to provide you with any further information or answer questions regarding this purchase. Thank you for your support and consideration regarding these items.

Professionally,

Rod Belnap, CTE Director