

Application Score Sheet

Proposed Project: The School District of Escambia County, J.M. Tate High School Automotive Academy (#332)

Proposed Project/Program County: Escambia

Board of County Commission Support:

Rural County: No

Opportunity Zone: No

Total Projected Project Cost: \$1,052,347

Match Provided: \$435,120

Triumph Funds Requested: \$617,227 (59%)

Triumph Funds Recommended by Staff: \$617,227

Score: A

ROI: \$30.5 per dollar of Triumph cost

Economic Analysis, Impact and Score

Escambia County Public Schools (ECPS) requests a Triumph award of up to \$617,227 to renovate and equip the former Auto Body building at Tate High School that will provide classrooms, hands-on labs, and training locations for the Automotive Service Academy. Tate will use its ECPS funds of \$435,120 to match, so that the Triumph share of the project cost is 58.7 percent of the total project cost of \$1,052,347.

Triumph funds will be used to purchase equipment (\$382,397), as well as two years of the new Automotive Service instructor's salary. ECPS will pay the salary in subsequent years using funding attributable to additional program enrollment. ECPS will seek accreditation from the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence and will meet Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) and legislative requirements for instruction in automotive service standards.

The program is designed to appeal to students who may not otherwise be motivated to attend and graduate high school. The District notes in the application that it has often heard from students that their CTE classes motivate them to "want" to be at school. Providing an opportunity for students to gain highly marketable skills in automotive service will certainly motivate more students to be successful in meeting high school graduation requirements. Some students may also be able to substitute ASE certifications for science or math credits.

This program will have a classroom academic component, but the primary learning environment will be the academy's automotive service shop. Students will learn through hands-on application of skills as they troubleshoot, diagnose and repair problems, as well as provide routine maintenance on a variety of modern automobiles.

Students will have the opportunity to enroll in at least one academy course per year from the FLDOE Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair curriculum frameworks. ECPS commits to 225 certification completers by the end of the 2029-2030 academic year. At a cost of up to \$617,227 to Triumph, and 225 certifications, the cost per completer is \$2,743.

At a reimbursement rate of \$2,743 per certification, the discounted total increase in household incomes expected from the program is expected to be \$30.5 per dollar of Triumph cost, which is attractive relative to other Triumph awards made to date. For these reasons, staff rate this program “A” in terms of economic impact.

Project Summary (based on information provided by the applicant)

The School District of Escambia County is requesting a \$617,227 Triumph grant to reestablish the Automotive Service Academy at J.M. Tate High School in Cantonment. The funds will be used to renovate the former auto body building, for equipment, tools, supplies and personnel. Students will gain skills for careers in today’s highly technical automotive service industry. The project will result in at least 225 ASE certifications.

The Automotive Service Academy program will increase students’ technology skills and knowledge by providing rigorous targeted instruction on automotive service techniques used throughout the industry. The attainment of ASE certification will ensure that students are prepared to meet the growing technological demands of increasingly computerized automobiles.

Today’s automotive service workforce is constantly evolving, and the skillset required for employment is a moving target. Repair and maintenance of newer automobiles requires skills that were never imagined in the past. For example, much of today’s service repairs are completed through the push of a button, rather than the turning of a wrench. To meet the ever-changing demands of tomorrow’s workforce, Escambia County Public Schools (ECPS) is committed to helping students attain industry recognized credentials found on the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) CAPE funding list.

The FLDOE requires alignment to ASE standards for all automotive service programs. ASE is the industry standard for automotive service and is recognized throughout the industry as a valued credential. This program will focus on the CAPE industry certifications associated with ASE.

Automotive Service Academy participants will have the opportunity to enroll in at least one academy course per year from the FLDOE Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair curriculum frameworks. There are up to six courses available, students will earn certifications including but not limited to NIASE078 ASE Entry-Level-Auto: Automobile Service, NIASE079 ASE Entry- Level-Auto: Brakes, NIASE080 ASE Entry-Level-Auto: Electrical/Electronic Systems.

There will be a classroom academic component, but the primary learning environment will be the academy’s automotive service shop. Students will learn through hands-on application of

skills as they troubleshoot, diagnose and repair problems, as well as provide routine maintenance on a variety of modern automobiles.

This project provides an alternative pathway for students to meet graduation requirements by giving a hands-on training alternative to traditional academic courses and will appeal to students who may not otherwise be motivated to attend and graduate high school. Some students may be able to substitute ASE certifications for science or math credits.

At full implementation, the Automotive Service Academy will serve approximately one hundred fifty (150) students per year starting in 9th grade. Students in grades 11-12 will have opportunities for work-based learning through On the Job Training (OJT) and DCT programs. Students will also have the option of attending George Stone Technical College as a dual-enrolled student in the Automotive Service program and can continue on to George Stone Technical College for additional ASE, diesel mechanic, marine mechanic or A&P certification attainment.

The former automotive program has been closed for decades. Renovations include but are not limited to garage doors being serviced, existing automotive lifts being replaced with modern lifts and systems such as the oil/water separator and exhaust fume vacuum being brought back to operational status. Bathroom and classroom renovations are also needed. The facility will be outfitted with the latest modern automotive maintenance tools and tool storage.

The need for skilled automotive maintenance technicians has increased post pandemic, as many new entries into the workforce seek online and remote work. The automotive service industry has also seen a drain on institutional knowledge due to retirements of long-term employees. These factors coupled with the increased technical knowledge required to maintain today's automobiles have created critical shortages in talent for the automotive maintenance industry.

According to FloridaJobs.org, the region has one hundred fourteen (114) openings annually for automotive service technicians. While that places automotive service at the twelfth (12th) rank in highest number of openings, it places it first (1st) in terms of skilled trades. The only job fields with higher demand are in the medical fields, truck drivers, and supervisors.

Triumph funds will be used in conjunction with ECPS District funding sources to start and build the program. The ECPS Workforce Education department will continue to fund this program using CAPE bonus funds, Perkins, local sales tax funding, District budgets, and other funding sources.

This program promotes economic recovery in the long-term by providing transferrable and highly sought-after industry skills to students who may otherwise not find the support to ensure their success in high school and beyond. This program is intended, in part, to be a bridge to successful graduation. An increased number of high school graduates who already hold valuable industry skills will lead to positive economic recovery. Triumph funding would provide the resources ECPS needs to offer this missing segment of skilled trades.

Automotive Service Academy Enrollments By Academic Year	Enrollments	Completers	Certifications
2024-2025	0	0	0
2025-2026	75	0	25
2026-2027	150	0	50
2027-2028	150	0	50
2028-2029	150	25	50
2029-2030	150	25	50
Totals	675	50	225

Budget and Funding

See attached

Exhibit B

Project #332, Tate High School Automotive Service Academy

Budget

Estimated construction start date if applicable August, 2024

Estimated education component start date if applicable August, 2025

	Personnel	Equipment	Cert Fees, Curriculum, Materials & Supplies	Renovation	Total
Please change year # to actual year					
Project Total					
Aug 2024 - December 2024				250,000.00	250,000.00
2025	33,020.00	382,397.41	49,550.00	-	464,967.41
2026	66,040.00		17,550.00	-	83,590.00
2027	66,040.00		7,550.00	-	73,590.00
2028	66,040.00		7,550.00	-	73,590.00
2029	66,040.00		7,550.00	-	73,590.00
Jan 2030 - Jun 2030	33,020.00			-	33,020.00
Project Total	330,200.00	382,397.41	89,750.00	250,000.00	1,052,347.41
Triumph					
Aug 2024 - December 2024				50,000.00	50,000.00
2025	33,020.00	382,397.41	32,550.00		447,967.41
2026	66,040.00		12,550.00		78,590.00
2027	33,020.00		2,550.00		35,570.00
2028			2,550.00		2,550.00
2029			2,550.00		2,550.00
Jan 2030 - Jun 2030					-
Triumph Total	132,080.00	382,397.41	52,750.00	50,000.00	617,227.41
Grantee					
Aug 2024 - December 2024				200,000.00	200,000.00
2025			17,000.00		17,000.00
2026			5,000.00		5,000.00
2027	33,020.00		5,000.00		38,020.00
2028	66,040.00		5,000.00		71,040.00
2029	66,040.00		5,000.00		71,040.00
Jan 2030 - Jun 2030	33,020.00				33,020.00
Grantee Total	198,120.00	-	37,000.00	200,000.00	435,120.00