

TESTIMONY PROVIDED TO: House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
FROM: John Fischer, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Education
TOPIC: Tech Centers and Economic Development Bill
DATE: April 16, 2015

Tech Centers and Economic Development Bill

It is recommended that language supporting priority career technical education programs establish the following expectations:

- The Agency of Education shall work in collaboration with regional career centers, the Department of Labor, and the Agency of Commerce and Community Development to develop grades 9 through 14 collaborative career technical education pathways aligned to high wage, high skill, high demand employment opportunities, and inclusive of postsecondary learning.
- Regional career centers shall develop programs of study, in collaboration with and subject to the approval of the Agency of Education. These programs of study shall be aligned to the priority pathways identified by the Agency of Education, in collaboration with the Agency of Commerce and Community Development and the Department of Labor.
- Such programs of study shall include opportunities for postsecondary enrollment in apprenticeships, internships, approved training programs and sub-baccalaureate programs.
- It is the intention to develop and implement CTE programs of study which include a sequence of courses spanning grades 9 through 12, expanding the entitlement in such cases for enrollment at a regional career center.
- Subject to the approval of the Agency of Education, high school courses may be designated by the regional career center as a portion of an approved program of study. Courses so designated shall be identified through an articulated agreement between the host high school and the regional career center as part of a program of study approved by the Agency of Education. Such courses, if delivered in a co-teaching model in collaboration with a regional career center may be eligible for supplemental funding through the regional career center in accordance with Title 16, Chapter 37, Subchapter 5 §1561.
- When such designation occurs and when a similar course is not offered at a student's home high school, a student may apply for enrollment at the host high school and career technical program of study.
- The Agency of Education shall define the design elements of a career academy. Upon approval by the Agency of Education, courses within a career academy offered at a regional career center or in collaboration with a regional career center may be eligible for funding at the discretion of the Agency of Education and the regional career center. Such approval is subject to annual renewal by the Agency of Education.
- Regional career centers shall develop adult education programs, courses and training modules to address workforce needs. Development and implementation of such training will be contingent upon available funding.

Potential Statutory Revisions:

1. Title 16, Chapter 37, Subchapter 5 §1565 (b) (1) (B) strike “except for assistant directors for adult education” when the Agency of Education authorizes such sums to support collaborative programming in the priority pathways.
2. Title 16, Chapter 37, Subchapter 1 §1531 (a) (3) could be strengthened to compel development of adult training programs developed and offered in a collaboration with other appropriate state agencies and entities, when such funding is available to support priority demand needs.
3. Title 16, Chapter 37, Subchapter 3 §1541a (a) (1) could be expanded to allow CTE entitlement to grades 9-12, specifically in a sequence of courses comprising a Priority Program of Study by the Agency of Education. Due to the increased complexity of the workforce and postsecondary needs, expanded CTE programs of study are necessary at the secondary level in order to prepare career ready students, including college entrance without remediation.
4. Title 16, Chapter 37, Subchapter 5 §1562 could be strengthened to create an entitlement for 9th and 10th grade courses in CTE designed to assist students in deciding whether to enroll in CTE programs of study. (...the State Board shall....)