



MEMORANDUM

TO: INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FROM: GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE CABINET
RE: CTE RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction:

In 2018, Governor Eric Holcomb signed Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 50 into law. SEA 50 designated the Governor's Workforce Cabinet (GWC) as the state advisory body for the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act (Perkins Act). As such, the Cabinet established a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Action Team at its May meeting to evaluate and make recommendations in regards to the delivery of CTE within the state. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the State Board of Education (Board) with the recommendations that would require action by the Board.

I. Overview

President Trump signed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V) on July 31, 2018. This legislation was the first reauthorization of the Perkins Act since 2006. Perkins V now requires that states use course completion instead of credit completion in order for students to be designated as CTE Concentrators. In addition to students being required to complete a certain number of courses to receive concentrator status, they must also complete those courses in a specified program or program of study. Perkins V requires that states begin using a new definition starting July 1, 2019.

The CTE Action Team also reviewed and discussed the current list of courses that count toward concentrator status. The way in which students can accumulate credits within the current structure does not necessarily lend itself to be as rigorous as the CTE Action Team would define a program or program of study. The CTE Action Team determined that a CTE Concentrator should be a student that is ready to move into employment in a relevant field or enroll in a postsecondary institution to continue their education. As such, the CTE Action Team determined that there is both a short term and a long term solution to strengthening the state's CTE program. This is even more imperative with the upcoming Graduation Pathways requirements taking effect with next year's freshmen cohort (the 2023 graduation class).

II. Recommendations

- 1) Redefine a CTE Concentrator as a student that completes at least two non-duplicative advanced courses (courses beyond an introductory course) within a particular program or program of study,
- 2) For short term application, the Department of Education should examine the current courses that count toward concentrator status within each of the current CTE pathways. Utilizing DOE's CTE staff, employer groups, CTE Directors, postsecondary providers, and workforce development partners, the DOE, in partnership with Department of Workforce Development and the GWC, can recommend that the SBOE adopt revised CTE pathways that are more aligned to the Perkins definitions of a concentrator and program or program of study.