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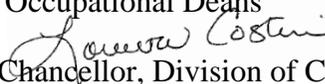
Loretta Costin, Chancellor
Division of Career and Adult Education



July 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Career and Technical Education Directors
Technical Center Directors
Florida College Occupational Deans

FROM: Loretta Costin,  Chancellor, Division of Career and Adult Education

SUBJECT: House Bill 1255 and Senate Bill 2120 Legislative Changes Regarding Career and Technical Education

The 2011 Florida Legislature made several important statutory changes regarding the Florida Career and Professional Education Act. Specifically, the 2011 Legislature passed House Bill 1255 (Chapter 2011-175, Laws of Florida) and Governor Scott signed this legislation into law on June 17, 2011. While this bill makes many changes regarding K-12 public school accountability, the purpose of this memorandum is to provide information solely on the portions (sections 20, 21, 22, 29 and 34) of House Bill 1255 that relates to career and technical education. In addition, Senate Bill 2120 (Chapter 2011-55, § 33, Laws of Florida) was signed by the Governor on May 26, 2011. This bill amended the Florida Education Finance Program statute which will result in changes to how the additional funding for academy students earning industry certifications is calculated. The information provided on Senate Bill 2120 is limited to information regarding industry certification funding (section 33). Please refer directly to the legislation or Laws of Florida for additional information not related to career and technical education that is contained in House Bill 1255 or Senate Bill 2120.

House Bill 1255

School District Five-Year Strategic Plan (Section 20)

With regard to the five-year strategic plan already in place pursuant to s. 1003.491, F.S., this legislation requires the plan to be reviewed, updated and jointly approved every five years by the

local school district, regional workforce boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions. *The composition of the required entities changed from local workforce boards to regional workforce boards. This is a technical change that accurately reflects the title of the 24 regional workforce boards. Additionally, economic development representation was added as a result of this legislation.*

Provisions must be included for:

- Efficient transportation of students;
- Maximum use of shared resources;
- Access to courses aligned to state curriculum standards through virtual education providers who are legislatively authorized to provide part-time instruction to middle-school students;
- ***Provide for an objective review of career and professional academy courses to determine if the courses will lead to the attainment of industry certifications included on the Industry Certified Funding List;***
- ***Strategies to improve the passage rate for industry certification examinations if the rate falls below 50 percent; and***
- ***Strategies to implement career and professional academy training that leads to industry certification at Department of Juvenile Justice facilities.***

Career and Professional Academies (Section 21)

- Eliminates the provision regarding major areas of interest – no longer required.
- Removes the requirement that an academy provide the opportunity for students to obtain a Ready to Work Credential.
- Requires each academy to develop a plan to sustain career and professional academies.
- Requires that if the passage rate on an industry certification associated with an academy falls below 50 percent, the academy must discontinue enrollment of new students the following year and each year thereafter until such time as the passage rate is above 50 percent or the academy is discontinued.

School districts should use school year 2011-12 data as the baseline year to determine the industry certification passage rate for each academy. For academies registered in 2011-12, the industry certification data and passage rates of students in academies will need to be reviewed by the district prior to the registration of academies in 2012-13 and submission of student enrollment in academies for the 2012-13 school year. The Department will monitor compliance with this accountability requirement.

- Stipulates that Workforce Florida, Inc., through the secondary career academies initiatives, shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical assistance in the development and

deployment of newly-established career and professional academies. Workforce Florida, Inc., replaces Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes.

Middle School Career and Professional Academy Courses (Section 22)

- Creates section 1009.4935, F.S. which requires that beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, each district school board, in collaboration with regional workforce boards, economic development agencies, and state-approved postsecondary institutions, *include plans* - as part of the five-year strategic plan pursuant to s. 1003.491(2) - *to implement a career and professional academy in at least one middle school in the district.*

The plan must ensure the transition of middle school academy students to a high school academy currently operating in the district. Students who complete a middle school career and professional academy must have the opportunity to earn an industry certificate and high school credit and participate in career planning, job shadowing, and business leadership development activities.

Each middle school career and professional academy must be aligned with at least one high school career and professional academy offered in the district and maintain partnerships with local business and industry and economic development boards.

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, new middle school career and technical education course offerings for 6th grade, 7th grade and 8th grade will be available in the Course Code Directory. These courses will be aligned to the 17 career clusters and may be offered as semester courses or year-long courses. The new middle school course offerings will allow students to transition seamlessly into a specific high school career and technical education program of study

Middle school career and professional academies must:

- o Provide instruction in courses leading to careers in occupations designated as high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand on the Industry Certification Funding List approved under rules adopted by the State Board of Education;
- o Offer career and professional academy courses that integrate content from core subject areas;
- o Offer courses that integrate career and professional academy content with intensive reading and mathematics pursuant to s. 1003.428, F.S.;

- o Coordinate with high schools to maximize opportunities for middle school career and professional academy students to earn high school credit;
School districts that offer high school credit-bearing courses in middle school career and professional academies should follow local school district procedures to amend its student progression plan in accordance with 1008.25 F.S. –Public School Student Progression
- o Provide access to virtual instruction courses approved and aligned to state curriculum standards, with priority to students who have required-course deficits;
- o Provide instruction from highly-skilled professionals who hold industry certifications in the career area in which they teach;
- o Offer externships; and
- o Provide personalized student advisement that includes a parent-participation component.

The new law also requires, beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, if a school district implements a middle school career and professional academy, the Department of Education shall collect and report student achievement data pursuant to performance factors identified under s. 1003.492(3), F.S., for academy students.

Designation of School Grades for Middle Schools (Section 29)

Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, for schools comprised of middle grades 6 through 8 or grades 7 and 8, the school's grades shall include the performance and participation of its students enrolled in high school level courses with end-of-course assessments administered under s. 1008.22(3)(c)2.a. Performance and participation must be weighted equally. As valid data becomes available, the school grades shall include the students' attainment of national industry certifications identified in the Industry Certification Funding List pursuant to rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

Nondegreed Teachers of Career and Technical Education Qualifications (Section 34)

Qualifications must be established for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career and technical education courses for program clusters that are recognized by the state. Previously, the law listed the specific program clusters rather than referring to the program cluster.

Finally, the law now requires each district school board to require documentation of industry certification when state or national industry certifications are available and applicable as part of its qualifications for part-time and full-time nondegreed teachers of career and technical education.

Department of Education Technical Assistance (House Bill 1255)

As a result of these changes, the Department has amended the current procedures for implementation of the Florida Career and Professional Education Act as follows:

High School Academy Registration

- During the registration of academies, the submission process requires acknowledgement that the submitter is aware of the new accountability requirements.

Middle School Academy Registration

- The Department is amending Rule 6A-6.0573, F.A.C., to include a registration process for middle school career and professional academies.
- This registration will be open from September 15 to October 15.
- Districts will be required to report students in registered middle school academies beginning in Survey 3 (Federal/State Indicator Status), using the career and professional academy identifier (three-digit code) that is assigned during the registration process.
- During the registration of academies, the submission process requires acknowledgement that the submitter is aware of the new accountability requirements.

Data Submission of Industry Certification Outcomes

- For students in registered career and professional academies, districts must now submit the career and professional academy identifier with the industry certification data on the Career and Technical Education Student Course Schedule format. Information on the data format is available here:
http://www.fldoe.org/eias/dataweb/database_1112/1112vscs.asp

Senate Bill 2120

Industry Certification Funding (Section 33)

This bill contained amendments to the funding associated with career and professional academy students who earn industry certifications. The following changes were made to s. 1011.62(o), F.S.:

- Allows middle school career academy students earning industry certifications to qualify for the additional FTE membership.

- Creates a value of 0.1, 0.2, and 0.3 for the FTE membership calculation.
- Establishes a maximum value for any student of 0.3 FTE.
- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt a value of 0.1, 0.2, or 0.3 to each certification on the Industry Certification Funding List. This weight must be based equally on the rigor of the certification and the employment value. Rigor must be based on the number of instructional hours, including work experience, with a bonus for certifications with a statewide articulation agreement. Employment value must be based on the growth rate, average annual openings, and entry wage for the primary occupation linked to the certification.

Department of Education Technical Assistance (Senate Bill 2120)

As a result of these changes, the Department is amending Rule 6A-6.0573, F.A.C. to include procedures for assigning the weights to each industry certification on the *Industry Certification Funding List*. The 2011-12 funding list which is expected to be adopted at the September 2011 State Board of Education meeting will include the assignment of a weight of 0.1, 0.2, or 0.3 to each industry certification.

If you have any questions regarding program issues pertaining to CAPE, please contact Kathleen Taylor [850-245-9062/Kathleen.Taylor@fldoe.org] and questions regarding CAPE funding or data reporting should be directed to Tara Goodman [850-245-9002/Tara.Goodman@fldoe.org].

Thank you.

LC/kmf