

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATIONAL NOTES OF THE
FLORIDA CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL ACADEMIES
JOINT IMPLEMENTATION TEAM**

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The Florida Career and Professional Education Act, Chapter 2007-216, Laws of Florida, ensures Career and Technical Education programs are academically rigorous and relevant to the work place, and it provides a statutory bond between Career and Technical Education and the Workforce Development System. The act will ensure Workforce Education programs meet the current and future needs of Florida's Economy. Every student who completes a Career and Professional Academy program will graduate from high school with one or more industry recognized certifications, will be prepared to enter the workforce and proceed to higher education.

- Increase student academic achievement
- Prepare students to make appropriate education and employment Choices
- Focus on career preparation
- Raise student aspiration and commitment to academic achievement and work ethics
- Support graduation requirements
- Promote acceleration mechanisms, i.e. dual enrollment, articulated credits, etc
- Support Florida's economy by meeting industry needs for skilled employees in high demand jobs

SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

- Requires district school boards to develop strategic plans to address and meet local and regional workforce needs;
- Re-defines the term "career and professional academy" to mean: a program that integrates an academic curriculum;
- Requires public schools and school districts to offer career and professional academies;
- Establishes a mechanism for transferring credits to postsecondary institutions;
- Requires that career courses lead to industry certification;
- Requires that specific percentages of student achieve certification or college credit in order for a course to be offered;
- Provides a statewide planning partnership between business and education;
- Provides rigorous and relevant career-themed course that articulate to postsecondary-level course work and lead to industry certification;
- Supports local and regional economic development
- Responds to Florida's critical workforce needs; and
- Provides state residents with access to high-wage and high-demand careers.

TIMELINE FOR MAJOR IMPLEMENTATION TASKS

- The Okaloosa County School District CHOICE Institutes shall serve in an advisory role and shall offer technical assistance for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2007, as districts create new career and professional academies
- The curriculum review committee must be established and operational by September 1, 2007
- Each district's strategic plan must be completed by June 30, 2008
- Each district must have at least one operational career and professional academy established no later than the beginning of the 2008-09 school year

EARLY PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Appointed members to a joint implementation team and sub-teams (Education and Workforce)
- Convene the first meeting of the joint implementation team (July 18, 2007)
- Established five sub-teams of the implementation team and appointed sub-team members (Curriculum Review, Strategic Planning/Implementation, Certification/Credentialing and Data/Evaluation)
- DOE has sent letters to designated entities for nominations to Curriculum Review Committee