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MEMORANDUM

TO: School District Superintendents
School District Secondary Career and Technical Education Directors

FROM: Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.

DATE: July 29, 2024

SUBJECT: 2024 Legislation Affecting K-12 Career, Technical and Adult Education Partners

The 2024 Florida Legislature passed legislation that will impact school district K-12 career and technical education (CTE) programs and the implementation of the Florida Career and Professional Education (CAPE) Act. Because many of the bills impact multiple offices and functions, each institution should read the bills giving thorough attention to each section. Unless otherwise specified, all new legislative requirements are effective July 1, 2024. A summary of action required of school districts is provided below and in the appendix.

APPROPRIATIONS

Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) – Cost Factor for 9-12 Career Education (HB 5001)

- In the 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA), the cost factor for 9-12 Career Education is established as 1.079, compared to .978 for 9-12 basic cost factor, in specific appropriation 84. The base student allocation is \$5,330.98.

Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (HB 5001)

- \$100 million is provided in the GAA to implement the Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant program pursuant to section (s.) 1011.801, Florida Statutes (F.S.), in specific appropriation 120.
- The grant program was created to provide grants to school districts and Florida College System institutions to fund some or all of the costs associated with the creation or expansion of career and technical education programs that lead to industry certifications included on the CAPE Industry Certification Funding List.
- FDOE will release additional information regarding the 2024-25 funding opportunity in separate communications.

Kevin O'Farrell, Ph.D.
Chancellor of Career and Adult Education

FLORIDA CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (CAPE) ACT

CAPE Strategic Plan (SB 1688)

Section 1003.491, F.S., is amended to add the following new element to the strategic plan:

- Strategies to inform and promote the career and technical education opportunities available in the district to students, parents, the community, and stakeholders.

School districts are required to review and update their 3-year CAPE strategic plan to add the required information.

Middle Grades Career and Professional Academy Courses and Career-themed Courses (SB 1688)

Section 1003.4935, F.S., is amended to require school districts to inform students and parents during course selection for middle school of the career and professional academy or career-themed courses available within the district.

School districts should evaluate current processes for middle school course selection to ensure compliance with this new requirement.

Industry-Certified Career Education Programs (SB 1688)

The accountability requirements for industry certified career education programs are updated to require the review as part of the annual CTE audit specified in s. 1003.491(5), F.S. Specific requirements, achievement and performance data were removed from this section of the statute. With this change, the department is modifying data collection on career and professional academies. The current academy data element, Career and Professional Academy Identifier, is being retired and replaced by a new Career and Professional Academy Participant data element. The 2024-25 data reporting requirements are in the process of being updated for Surveys 2, 3 and 5 on the Federal State Indicator format.

CTE PROGRAMS AND CAREER PLANNING

Automotive Service Technology Education Programs (SB 7004)

The entirety of Section 1004.925, F.S., is repealed. This removes a requirement that automotive service technology education programs be industry certified. It is important to note that formal education at a National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence, ASE-accredited program remains an important pathway towards student ASE certification attainment.

The division will be updating the Automotive Service Technology curriculum frameworks in Rule 6A-6.0571, (F.A.C.) to reflect the repeal of this statutory provision. Rule 6A-6.05731, (F.A.C.) will be repealed at a future State Board of Education meeting.

Yearly High School Career Fairs for Juniors and Seniors (HB 917)

Section 1001.43, F.S., was amended to allow districts flexibility in implementing “industry networking opportunities during the school day” as alternatives to the career fairs required under this section of law for eleventh and twelfth grade students. These industry networking opportunities may be tailored toward elementary through secondary grades and may be implemented in consultation with a local workforce development board, advisory committees and business groups.

OTHER UPDATES

High School Equivalency Diploma Program – Notification Requirements (SB 7032)

A new requirement is added to s. 1003.435(3)(b), F.S. Each district school board must notify candidates for the high school equivalency diploma about the adult secondary and postsecondary education options available in or near the district, including the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education (GATE) Program. Additionally, candidates must be informed of the eligibility requirements and any minimum academic requirements for each available option.

Underage Eligibility for the High School Equivalency Diploma Program (SB 7004)

Section 1003.435, F.S., is amended to change the eligibility of individuals beyond the compulsory age to take the high school equivalency exam. With this amendment, a candidate who has filed a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment pursuant to s. 1003.21(1)(c), F.S., may take the exam after reaching the age of 16, without additional conditions from the district.

Rule 6A-6.0201, F.A.C., will be updated to amend provisions related to underage testing. Once the rule is effective, FDOE will provide additional technical assistance and guidance.

Notification of the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education Program (SB 7032)

The bill amends the school attendance requirements in s. 1003.21(1)(c), F.S., to add the requirement that a student’s certified school counselor or other school personnel must inform students who withdraw from high school of opportunities in the GATE Program. The Department will be releasing additional information on the implementation of the GATE program.

Excused Absences for 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Participation (SB 1084)

Section 1003.24, F.S., was amended to require that student participation in 4-H or Future Farmers of America (FFA) be credited as an excused absence by schools. Excused absences may be for one or more whole days or for a portion of a day. 4-H or FFA representatives are to provide documentation of student participation to the school.

Thank you for implementing these important changes.

KO/es

Appendix – School District Actions for K-12 CTE Programs Following the 2024 Legislative Session

Issue (Bill Number)	May require local policy and/or procedures review	May require data or information to be submitted to the state
Florida Education Finance Program (FEFP) – Cost Factor for 9-12 Career Education (HB 5001)	Yes. The district will be required to review finance procedures for disbursement of funds within the district.	None expected.
Workforce Development Capitalization Incentive Grant Program (HB 5001)	None expected.	Dependent on the grant.
CAPE Strategic Plan (SB 1688)	Yes, the district will be required to review the 3-year CAPE Strategic Plan.	None expected.
Middle Grades Career and Professional Academy Courses and Career-themed Courses (SB 1688)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	Yes. Reporting on the new data element will be required, with retirement of the old element.
Industry-certified career education programs (SB 1688)	None expected.	Yes.
Automotive Service Technology Education Programs (SB 7004)	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.
Yearly High School Career Fairs for Juniors and Seniors (HB 917)	None expected.	None expected.
High School Equivalency Diploma Program Notification Requirements (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
Eligibility for the High School Equivalency Diploma Program (SB 7004)	Yes, based on rulemaking.	None expected, subject to change based on rulemaking.

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Notification of the Graduation Alternative to Traditional Education program (SB 7032)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	None expected.
Excused Absences for 4-H and Future Farmers of America (FFA) Participation (SB 1084)	Yes, the district will be required to review policy and /or procedures.	Yes.