

October, 2009

Career and Technical Education Program

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Team provides leadership, service and connections to prepare students for college and careers. Today's CTE has evolved from a limited number of vocational programs available at the turn of the 20th century into a broad system that encompasses a variety of challenging fields in diverse subject areas which are constantly evolving due to the changing global economy. Today's CTE provides students:

- Academic subject matter taught with application and relevance to the real world;
- Career development and school counseling, including career awareness, interest assessment, exploration, planning, and technical skill acquisition;
- Employability and 21st Century skills, from job-related skills to workplace ethics;
- Career Clusters and Pathways that link secondary and postsecondary education and meet industry standards of proficiency and excellence. The program areas of CTE include: Agriculture and Natural Resources; Business and Information Technology; Family and Consumer Sciences; Health Science, Marketing; and Technology and Engineering. Wisconsin has adopted the national career clusters and pathways model that currently has 16 clusters and 79 pathways to college and careers;
- Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) are organizations that reinforce CTE instruction through co-curricular activities that prepare young people to become productive citizens and leaders; and
- Education for Employment, Financial and Entrepreneurship Literacy.

Today's CTE programs and learning activities are part of a coordinated system of education, workforce and economic development for regions of the state, Wisconsin and the nation. To find a full listing of programs visit CTE's DPI webpage, <http://dpi.wi.gov/cte/>. Contact Sharon Wendt at (608) 267-9251.

Children at Risk of Not Graduating from High School:

Every school district in Wisconsin is required to identify and serve students who meet the statutory definition of being a child at risk of not graduating from high school under §118.153 (1), Wis. Stats.

The Department of Public Instruction administers the Children at Risk of Not Graduating from High School Aid Program. This is a categorical aid reimbursement program established by the Wisconsin Legislature to provide \$3.5 million to prevent school failure in students who are determined to be at risk of not graduating from high school. Available to schools with a high number of dropouts, the program funds specialized services for at-risk youth. Contact Beth Lewis at beth.lewis@dpi.wi.gov or 608-267-1062.

Alternative Education:

The alternative education program works with school districts to develop programs that help all students to be successful. Program ideas range from early intervention for at-risk learners that start the student off on the right track to programs for students who have lost their way entirely. For the student who has lost his or her way, this might include jail or detention based education, credit acceleration, a behavior program or just an opportunity to come back to school and graduate.

While the short-term goal of alternative education is to meet the needs of some students, the long-term goal must be to identify successful alternative education strategies and use these strategies as a basis for improving the learning opportunities for all children. Contact Beth Lewis at beth.lewis@dpi.wi.gov or 608-267-1062.

Work Based Education:

One of the many goals of education is to prepare students to successfully enter the workforce. A strong academic and Career and Technical foundation and preparation for career opportunities are important educational components for Wisconsin students. Students can benefit from participation in educational programs which provide a work-based experience and a more deliberate selection of course work based on potential career interests.

Students seek a clear connection between their future career(s) and their class work. The opportunity to explore and experience a world of work is beneficial to career decision-making. Interning at a workplace provides a firsthand look at what skills are needed, how knowledge learned in school is put into action in the workplace, and informs the student about career choice. Work-based learning is the key to a successful 21st century. Contact Sharon Wendt at (608) 267-9251.