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Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act



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All Aspects of an Industry

The term 'all aspects of an industry' means strong experience in, and comprehensive understanding of, the industry that the individual is preparing to enter.

Articulation Agreement

The term ‘articulation agreement’ means a written commitment –

- (A) that is agreed upon at the State level or approved annually by the lead administrators of –
 - (i) a secondary institution and a postsecondary educational institution; or
 - (ii) a sub baccalaureate degree granting postsecondary educational institution and a baccalaureate degree granting postsecondary educational institution; and
- (B) to a program that is –
 - (i) designed to provide students with a nonduplicative sequence of progressive achievement leading to technical skill proficiency, a credential, a certificate, or a degree; and
 - (ii) linked through credit transfer agreements between the 2 institutions described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) (as the case may be).

Career and Technical Education



The term 'career and technical education' means organized educational activities that –

(A) Offer a sequence of courses that -

- (i) Provides individuals with rigorous academic content and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed to prepare for further education and careers in current or emerging professions, which may include high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand industry sectors or occupations, which shall be, at the secondary level, aligned with the challenging State academic standards adopted by a State under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
- (ii) Provides technical skill proficiency or a recognized postsecondary credential, which may include an industry-recognized credential, a certificate, or an associate degree; and
- (iii) May include prerequisite courses (other than a remedial course) that meet the requirements of this subparagraph;

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- (B) Include competency-based, work-based, or other applied learning that supports the development of academic knowledge, higher-order reasoning and problem-solving skills, work attitudes, employability skills, technical skills, and occupation-specific skills, and knowledge of all aspects of an industry, including entrepreneurship, of an individual;
- (C) to the extent practicable, coordinate between secondary and postsecondary education programs through programs of study, which may include coordination through articulation agreements, early college high school programs, dual or concurrent enrollment program opportunities, or other credit transfer agreements that provide postsecondary credit or advanced standing; and
- (D) may include career exploration at the high school level or as early as the middle grades (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965).

Career Cluster

- A Career Cluster is a grouping of occupations and broad industries based on commonalities.
- Expectations at the Career Cluster level represent the skills and knowledge, both academic and technical, that all students within the Career Cluster should achieve regardless of their pathway.
- Expectations at the pathway level represent the skills and knowledge, both academic and technical, necessary to pursue a full range of career opportunities within a pathway— ranging from entry level to management, including technical and professional career specialties.

Career Pathways

The term 'career pathways' has the meaning given in the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

The term "career pathway" means a combination of rigorous and high-quality education, training, and other services that –

- (A) aligns with the skill needs of industries in the economy of the State or regional economy involved;
- (B) prepares an individual to be successful in any of a full range of secondary or postsecondary education options, including apprenticeships registered under the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act"; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.) (referred to individually in this Act as an "apprenticeship", except in section 3226 of this title);
- (C) includes counseling to support an individual in achieving the individual's education and career goals;
- (D) includes, as appropriate, education offered concurrently with and in the same context as workforce preparation activities and training for a specific occupation or occupational cluster;
- (E) organizes education, training, and other services to meet the particular needs of an individual in a manner that accelerates the educational and career advancement of the individual to the extent practicable;
- (F) enables an individual to attain a secondary school diploma or its recognized equivalent, and at least 1 recognized postsecondary credential; and
- (G) helps an individual enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster.

Credit Transfer Agreement

The term 'credit transfer agreement' means a formal agreement, such as an articulation agreement, among and between secondary and postsecondary education institutions or systems that grant students transcribed postsecondary credit, which may include credit granted to students in dual or concurrent enrollment programs or early college high school, dual credit, articulated credit, and credit granted on the basis of performance on technical or academic assessments.

CTE Concentrator

The term 'CTE concentrator' means –

- (A) at the secondary school level, a student served by an eligible recipient who has completed at least 2 courses in a single career and technical education program or program of study; and
- (B) at the postsecondary level, a student enrolled in an eligible recipient who has –
 - (i) earned at least 12 credits within a career and technical education program or program of study; or
 - (ii) completed such a program if the program encompasses fewer than 12 credits or the equivalent in total

Program of Study

The term ‘program of study’ means a coordinated, nonduplicative sequence of academic and technical content at the secondary and postsecondary level that –

- (A) incorporated challenging State academic standards, including those adopted by a State under section 1111(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965;
- (B) addresses both academic and technical knowledge and skills, including employability skills;
- (C) is aligned with the needs of industries in the economy of the State, region, Tribal community, or local area;
- (D) progresses in specificity (beginning with all aspects of an industry or career cluster and leading to more occupation-specific instruction);
- (E) has multiple entry and exit points that incorporate credentialing; and
- (F) culminates in the attainment of a recognized postsecondary credential.