

Winter 2024

The goal of Equity and Special Populations Newsletter is to provide information that will be useful to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) community to support ALL students, but particularly, students within special populations.

This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Brian Pyles, Michigan Department of Education Director of Career and Technical Education.

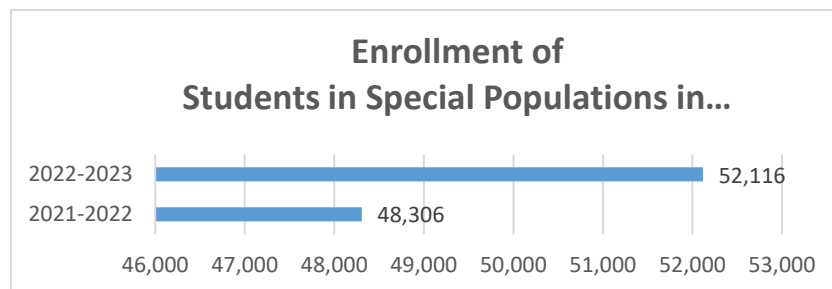
Dr. Pyles has shown unwavering support for students in special populations. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Michigan Association for Career and Technical Education presented at the MI Career Education Conference (January 2024) for his dedication in supporting the CTE community. Dr. Pyles will be moving on to new ventures in August 2024.

Dr. Pyles, thank you for your Leadership as State Director for the past six years.

Valerie Milton

ENROLLMENT OF SECONDARY STUDENTS IN SPECIAL POPULATONS

There was an increase of students in special populations enrolled in CTE programs. Between 2021–2022 and 2022–2023, enrollment increased by approximately 3,800 students.

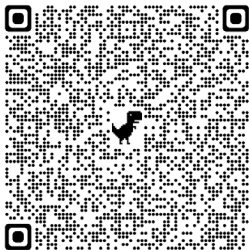


INSPIRING STORIES

Brenna Collins – 2023 Graduate from Manistique High School

Submitted by Mr. Trent Bellinger, CTE Principal/Director, Delta Schoolcraft ISD

Brenna Collins graduated in 2023 from Manistique High School. She had an IEP that helped her be successful with math and reading comprehension and values the contributions of her high school special education teacher Jane Bolm for helping her succeed. While in high school, Brenna enrolled in the Career and Technical Education Health Occupations program with no real intent on entering the health career field after high school. Once she invested herself in her CTE class, she found a passion, and participated in work-based learning at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, as well as earned her Certified Nursing Assistant Certification, and participated in Health Occupations Students of America. Upon graduation, Brenna was offered a CNA position at Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital, and her performance is so appreciated that the hospital is investing in her to complete her Medical Assisting certification to advance her short career even further. Congratulations Brenna!



Lauren I. - December 2023 Mott Community College Nursing Graduate

Submitted by: Kris Nevala, Perkins Special Populations Coordinator, Mott Community College

Lauren was a college student who had her sights set on obtaining her Associate in Nursing degree. There was nothing that would get in her way until some unexpected challenges set her back. She thought maybe this was not the time for her or maybe the universe was telling her something. She stayed in touch with those that supported her including having check-ins from her Perkins Special Populations Coordinator and next thing she knew; she was back on track and excelling in every nursing class. Timing is everything! Sometimes we have delays or roadblocks in life but with the right support and encouragement, students can obtain their dreams and turn them into a reality. Lauren graduated with a strong GPA in December 2023 and has already been offered employment as an RN. She is excited to start her journey and will be a wonderful addition to her hospital community and patients.

Lauren I., states *"Being a part of Perkins Special Populations was a much-needed addition to my college career. The team was always willing to sit down and chat if I needed it and always had solid advice! When needed they connected me with various resources. I am so thankful for each of them and couldn't have asked for a better experience!"* –

Congratulations Lauren!



Resources and Upcoming Events

There has been a great increase of enrollment of students who are English Learners in general education as well as in CTE programs. General education enrollment of students who are English Learners increased 3,166 between 2021–2022 to 2022–2023 and Career and Technical education students who are English Learners increased by 424 students. How can these students and their families be supported? Following are some resources that may be helpful.

Strategies/resources to assist families and students who are English Learners

[Newcomer Toolkit - U.S. Department of Education](#)
[Supporting English Learners in Career Technical Education. Advance CTE. ACTE.](#)
[TalkingPoints - Communicating with Families in multiple languages](#)
[Ottawa Area ISD CTC \(Careerline Tech Center\) Guidance Handbook](#)
[Unlocking Opportunities: Supporting English Learners' Equitable Access to Career and Technical Education" Migration Policy Institute: National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy](#)
[Best Translation Apps for Teachers and Students. Educators Technology.](#)
Padlet:
[Supporting Multilingual Learners in Secondary Career and Technical Education Programs SupportEd Diane Staehr Fenner](#)

Thank you to Ms. Rachel Manzer for her expertise and sharing the majority of the resources above to support students who are English Learners. Rachel is an English Learner Coach supporting Ottawa ISD Internal Programs. Rachel has presented at numerous events including the 2024 MI Career Education Conference.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 MOSPA Conference

The 2024 MOSPA will be held May 1-3 at Boyne Mountain Resort. Additional details will be shared soon on the Conference [website](#).

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity – [Ensuring Equity in Problem-Based Learning](#) Virtual Professional Development will be held May 14, 8:30 – 12:00pm. Registration will open in early April.

If you have information that you think would be beneficial to others, please contact:

**Dr. Valerie Milton, Research Consultant, Special Populations Coordinator at
MiltonV@Michigan.gov or at 517-281-2878**
