



## Office of CTE Bi-Weekly Update March 4, 2022

This update is provided by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education, housed under the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can [sign up here](#) and questions regarding content in the update can be directed to [CTE@gov.IN.gov](mailto:CTE@gov.IN.gov).

### CTE Awards for Excellence

Thank you to everyone who has submitted nominations over the last few months! Office of CTE staff will be assembling a small panel of reviewers to review applications over the next few weeks. If you are interested, let us know by emailing [CTE@gov.IN.gov](mailto:CTE@gov.IN.gov). Awards winners will be notified in early April.

The Awards for Excellence ceremony will take place in Indianapolis on Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Specific details about the event will be shared in a future bi-weekly update.

### Online/Virtual CTE Course Delivery Policies

Course delivery policies initially released by the Office of CTE during the summer of 2020 have been made permanent. Those policies can be [found here](#). Highlights include:

- A definition of in-person, hybrid (blended), virtual, and online courses.
- A course list that details the requirements for hands-on instruction for courses being offered in a hybrid (blended) model.
  - Courses **highlighted** in yellow are available to be offered 100% virtually.

Over the next few months, our team will be reviewing NLPS courses to determine the necessary hands-on requirements and what courses, if any, will remain eligible for funding if offered 100% virtually. This process is anticipated to be completed near the end of the school year.

**Concentrator Status:** The Office of CTE currently allows for courses taught online to count for credit towards concentrator status, despite these courses not being eligible for CTE funding (unless offered through a postsecondary institution). **This policy will remain in effect for all previously existing Perkins IV courses listed in Part II of the CTE section of the [2022-23 Course Titles and Descriptions](#).**

Despite this policy staying in effect for the courses identified above, concerns remain about counting credits earned in online courses toward concentrator status. **This policy is being reviewed for all NLPS courses to determine if any adjustments are necessary to ensure consistency of student outcomes across all instructional modalities.** Consistency in a student's ability to fully engage in CTE regardless of location and modality has been one of the primary goals of the CTE redesign and NLPS.

## Summer Credential Completion through *Crossing the Finish Line*

For the second consecutive summer, thousands of Indiana high school students will have the opportunity to accelerate the completion of a high-quality credential (including the Indiana College Core, an associate degree, or a CTE postsecondary credential) for free through [Crossing the Finish Line](#), a partnership between the Indiana Department of Education, the Commission for Higher Education, GWC, Ivy Tech Community College, and Vincennes University.

All Indiana superintendents, principals, and counselors should have received an initial email from IDOE explaining the program and outlining next steps. School counselors will also receive a follow-up communication from Ivy Tech and/or Vincennes with a list of eligible students at each school. Counselors can review this list, ask questions directly of team members at each institution, and develop local plans to best support students during this process. In early March, eligible students will also be contacted directly by either Ivy Tech or Vincennes via email or postcard, alerting them of their eligibility. To learn more, [click here](#). Contact [Ivy Tech/Vincennes](#) with any questions.

## Next Level Programs of Study

**Conexus Indiana Education Readiness Grants:** The Governor's Workforce Cabinet and Conexus Indiana are partnering on a \$500,000 grant opportunity designed to assist schools in preparing students for the increasingly high-tech advanced manufacturing field. The grant will particularly assist schools who are interested in offering the Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing and Industrial Automation and Robotics programs of study as part of NLPS. The full press release will be released early next week and will be posted on the [GWC homepage](#). Schools can apply and find additional information [here](#).

**NLPS FAQ:** The FAQ document was updated in early February and can be [found here](#). New questions are highlighted in red. This is the best central resource to find information that has been shared in bi-weekly updates or other places regarding common NLPS questions. The document will be continuously updated throughout the spring as new questions arise.

**Reminder - Computer Science and Information Technology:** Our team has continued to field several questions about the different options available within NLPS to teach computer science or closely related subjects. A short guidance document has been developed to provide additional information regarding the Computer Science NLPS, Software Development NLPS, and other related programs of study that schools and career centers may consider offering. Find the new [guidance document here](#). Guidance was also shared last month about teaching Computer Science for AP credit, which can be [accessed here](#).

## Non-Standard Course and Licensure Waivers

**Course Waivers:** As indicated previously, CTE Nonstandard Course Waivers are being accepted through March 31<sup>st</sup>. These waivers are available for Pilot, Special Topics, and Advanced CTE College Credit courses along with waivers for course requirements. Waivers should be submitted through INTERS and schools with questions are encouraged to contact their Area CTE Director. An instruction form for submitting a waiver has been developed and is [available here](#).

The Office of CTE is working to develop an NLPS adoption form that will be available later this spring. The adoption form will give schools the opportunity to propose modifications to NLPS course sequences. For these cases, schools are encouraged to wait and use the adoption form rather than submit a NSCW.

**Licensure Waivers:** CTE Nonstandard Licensure Waivers are available for instructors with a Professional License or Workplace Specialist License to teach a course that is outside of their instructional area. This is offered as a free alternative to having licensed teachers obtain an emergency permit.

Nonstandard Licensure Waivers are submitted and approved through the Office of CTE. Emergency Permits must be submitted and approved through the IDOE Licensing office. Requirements for Licensure Waivers are shared below:

Requirements:

- The instructor has a reasonable pathway to full licensure; or
- The instructor has significant industry or educational experience in a closely related area. For example, an instructor has a bachelor or master's degree in a closely related area or has over 1000 hours of documented work experience.
- An instructor that is dual credit credentialed but does not hold a license that meets the assignment codes for a specific course, may submit a one-time waiver to meet funding eligibility requirements.

Renewal Requirements:

- If the instructor had a reasonable pathway to licensure, then the instructor would have had to pursue and make progress toward completion of the licensing requirements.
- If the instructor did not have a reasonable pathway to licensure, they may be required to complete externships, earn certifications or complete additional education and training.

### Perkins V State Plan

Indiana's 2020 Strategic Workforce Plan, *A Better Future for Every Hoosier*, is currently due for modifications and updates to the U.S. Department of Labor and other relevant federal agencies. It outlines the vision and goals of Indiana's workforce development system. Included is Indiana's Perkins Plan, which outlines our state's vision and goals for CTE. Modifications and updates for all sections of the Plan are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**The plan is now available for public comment.** The full plan that includes all proposed modifications and updates can be [found here](#). The Perkins section can be found starting on Page 617. An Executive Summary can be [found here](#). The Executive Summary is about 30 pages and provides an update on each strategy outlined in the original plan.

The public comment period is 30 days and will conclude on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Comments can be submitted to [GWCpubliccomment@gov.IN.gov](mailto:GWCpubliccomment@gov.IN.gov). Area CTE Directors are receiving a separate email detailing some specific changes in the Perkins plan.