Office of CTE Newsletter
May 10, 2023

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. Questions can be shared with CTE@gov.IN.gov.

Spotlight – Legislative Session Update

The 2023 Legislative Session for the Indiana General Assembly wrapped up in early May. A recap of shared by the Governor's Office can be found here and highlights of education specific bills were shared in the DOE newsletter last Friday.

A few highlights of bills that are of specific interest to the CTE community are shared below.

HB 1001 (State Budget)

- The state budget that will cover the next two fiscal years (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2025) increases the annual line item for industry certifications from $200,000 to $2,000,000. This line item was new in the current budget and provides reimbursements to schools and career centers for the cost of industry certification exams/assessments.

- Funding for enrollments in high-value CTE courses will increase in the new budget. The increase is 5% ($680 to $714 for Level 1 courses and $1,020 to $1,071 for Level 2 courses). Funding for the other course categories on the annual CTE funding memo is unchanged.

- The budget also contains a new Credential Completion Grant that is part of House Bill 1002 (mentioned below).

HB 1002

- House Bill 1002 contains a variety of provisions and our team is working with state agency partners and other stakeholders to develop collaborative guidance on the legislation. Provisions of the bill relevant to CTE include a career navigation and coaching program, career scholarship accounts for students, a required career awareness course, and incentivize funding for the completion of credentials in high school. The goals of the legislation include expanding opportunities for high-quality WBL experiences and providing students more options to participate in internships, apprenticeships, and other career training while in high school. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.

- One provision of the bill is the move of Perkins authority from the Governor's Workforce Cabinet to the Commission for Higher Education (CHE). Beginning July 1 all Office of CTE staff will be housed at CHE. Meetings have begun with CHE leadership to discuss the transition and additional information will be shared as it is available.

HB 1591

- This bill includes language about virtual CTE courses, among several other topics. Additional guidance will be shared in our next newsletter as to how this newly passed language impacts the Office of CTE's current policies for online and virtual CTE courses.

NLPS FAQ

The NLPS FAQ has been updated and the new version is available here. The document is still focused on the NLPS transition, but our team has also added some of the most common general questions we receive related to CTE. The FAQ is a great starting place when you have a question about NLPS or CTE in general. The document will continue to be updated in the coming months and we welcome your feedback on what additions, edits, etc. would make it of maximum benefit.

Graduation Pathways Industry Certifications List

The Graduation Pathways Industry Certifications list for the 2023-2024 school year is now final and can be found here. The document contains a tab for both removed and added certifications for schools to easily track changes from last year's list.

A supplemental document that provides additional clarification regarding what certifications students can earn for Graduation Pathways based on their cohort is available here.

Safety Requirements with Work-Based Learning

The OCTE has been working with the Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) to provide additional clarification regarding student's ability to participate in certain WBL experiences when under the age of 18. This is an area that often generates questions for both schools and businesses (including last week at our WBL workshops) as they try to provide students with high-quality WBL experiences, but in a safe and compliant manner. Students can participate in a wide variety of WBL experiences under 18, but there are certain restrictions that are important to keep in mind to ensure student safety and compliance for both schools and businesses.

IDOL is the state agency that receives and investigates allegations of violations in workplace safety standards. A common misconception with cases regarding students under 18 is that companies are exempt from hazardous occupation restrictions due to the student's participation in a learning program.

- While there is a student exemption, the exemption for student programs only applies to some of the hazardous occupations and is not a blanket waiver. IDOL provides clarification here on which occupations are exempt and which are not.
- It is important to note that the exemption only applies to 16- and 17-year-olds. Students under the age of 16 are not exempt from the restrictions on hazardous occupations.

Lastly, for occupations where an exemption is made, the student cannot be the primary operator of the equipment and may only operate the equipment under the close supervision of a qualified adult/mentor for 1 hour at a time or up to 20% of their shift.

For additional information regarding child labor laws, individuals are encouraged you to visit the DOL website. Please share any questions you may have as we work to develop additional guidance on this matter and other similar topics, such as liability insurance and worker's compensation.

CTE Awards for Excellence

The 2023 CTE Awards for Excellence took place on May 3rd. It was another great year celebrating the achievements of CTE students and the amazing partnerships, programs, and staff that make possible the experiences students have in CTE. Attendees had the opportunity to hear from Ivy Tech Community College President Dr. Sue Ellspermann and both secondary and postsecondary student winners were presented with a scholarship opportunity from Ivy Tech and Vincennes University for the first time.

Check out more information in the press release here.

Reminder – CTE Data Hub

The below is information shared in our last newsletter on the CTE Data Hub, formerly referred to as the CTE Pathways App. Several features have recently been added or improved based on user feedback to assist counselors, principals, and other school personnel in easily accessing and utilizing the available information. The main features of the CTE Data Hub include the following:

- **Ability to lookup a single student/or an entire cohort by school to validate for Graduation Pathways**
  - To search an entire cohort at a specific school, follow these steps. This will require a unique school login available only to school personnel at the specific school.
- When searching a student (or a group of students), **icons/badges appear identifying if the student has reached concentrator status**, attained an approved industry certification, is eligible for the technical honors diploma eligible and or has earned 9+ dual credits.
  - If a student has not reached concentrator status, users can view completed or currently enrolled courses and the remaining courses necessary to become a CTE concentrator.
- Review industry certifications approved for Graduation Pathways by cohort. Users can also find the assessment codes tied to each certification.

- View pathway/course information for school personnel/students/families
- Ability to view CTE data and links to important CTE sites/documents

Access the Data Hub from the InTERS homepage here, by clicking on CTE Data Hub. The Data Hub is primarily designed for school personnel who do not have access to InTERS, Indiana's comprehensive data system where all CTE data is inputted by schools and career centers. The Data Hub provides a place for a broader set of users to access key information through the features identified above. All information in the CTE Data Hub comes from data inputted into InTERS.

Many of the features can be done without a login, but some features do require a login. Each high school building has a unique login that can be shared among all school personnel.

If you are unsure of your school's login or have general questions about utilizing the Data Hub, email our data team. Additional information was shared through a recent webinar highlighting the newly available features.