

BOARD MEMO

Date: February 22, 2024
For ACTION ____
For INFORMATION __X__

FROM: Tricia S. Jacobs, Ph.D., Director of CTE & Workforce Development
Sarah A. Black, Work-Based Learning Specialist

THROUGH: Pierrette Finney, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Carmen Sanders, M.S., Executive Director of Instructional Support
Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

TO: The Honorable Michelle Rief, Chair, and
Members of the Alexandria City School Board

TOPIC: Updates to Career and Technical Education & Workforce Development in
Alexandria City Public Schools

ACPS 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL:

Goal 2: Instructional Excellence
Goal 3: Student Accessibility and Support

SY 2023-2024 PRIORITY AREA:

Academic Achievement
Tier 1 Instruction: Alignment, Rigor, Engagement
The High School Project

FY 2024 BUDGET PRIORITY:

Reduce Class Sizes

SUMMARY:

This memo provides an overview of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) & Workforce Development initiatives in Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). It will focus on CTE Annual Performance Report (APR) data, Academy Pathways, grants, Work-Based Learning (WBL), partnerships, and National CTE Month.

DETAILS:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Workforce Development provide students with various options to apply academic knowledge and earn the technical skills necessary for the workplace of the 21st century. The instructional program, along with opportunities for industry credentialing, helps students prepare to be college, career, and civic-ready. Students can participate in Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences where they can apply classroom knowledge.

BOARD MEMO

The CTE and Workforce Development Office has worked extensively with middle and high schools to develop strategies to address student achievement using the CTE competency correlation with state standards. Instruction in CTE courses fosters alignment, rigor, and engagement using hands-on, project-based learning. Within three years, the high school has successfully increased state Annual Performance Report (APR) results by developing School Improvement Plan strategies for meeting state data targets.

CTE courses, WBL opportunities, and high-quality industry credentials support the new High School Project Academy Pathways. By monitoring the workforce needs in the region, CTE continues to offer valuable pathways to ACPS students. Regional partners provide valuable feedback on the industry credentials students can earn and offer WBL experiences with fundamental world skills through hands-on experiences.

February is National CTE Month, allowing ACPS to raise awareness of CTE's role in readying learners for college and career success. It is a time to celebrate the achievements and accomplishments of the CTE and Workforce Development program. Additionally, dedicated Alexandria City Public School partners are recognized.

BACKGROUND:

The ACPS School Board approves the CTE Local Perkins IV Grant every April. The information in this memo will assist the board in gaining an understanding of the CTE and Workforce Development Office's scope of work that guides the development of the grant.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Superintendent recommends that the School Board review the CTE & Workforce Development Office materials.

IMPACT:

A focus by the CTE & Workforce Development Office on the above recommendation would provide more significant opportunities for ACPS students to graduate and be ready for careers and college.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. CTE and Workforce Development Update ppt.
2. 2020 - 2021 ACPS Annual Performance Report (APR)
3. 2021 - 2022 ACPS Annual Performance Report (APR)
4. 2022 - 2023 ACPS Annual Performance Report (APR)

REFERENCES:

06/16/2022: CTE Advisory Committee 2021-2022 Annual Report

04/22/2021: 2021-2022 Local Perkins V Plan for CTE Federal Perkins Funds

12/17/2020: 2020-2021 CTE Advisory Committee Scope of Work/Annual Report

CONTACT: Tricia S. Jacobs, Ph.D., tricia.jacobs@acps.k12.va.us

BOARD MEMO

Sarah A. Black, sarah.black@acps.k12.va.us