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Secondary Career and Technical Education Task Force: Interim Progress Report

House File 604

Iowa Department of Education



Iowa Department of Education

Grimes State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146



State Board of Education

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Introduction

The global economy is increasingly driven by knowledge and innovation and, in the aggregate, the jobs being created today require a much higher skill level than in the past. Technological change and globalization have eliminated many traditional pathways for diligent low-skill Iowans to enter the middle class. The demand for middle skill workers (for lack of a better term) is expected to grow and outstrip supply. In some sectors, education and skill gaps are already causing essential positions to be left vacant, hampering economic growth. At the same time, hardworking Iowans are left without dignified careers or in jobs without family-sustaining wages. There's a mismatch between the qualifications required for many openings and the education and training of Iowans.

Career and technical education (CTE) is central to the preparation of middle skill workers and to sharpening the state's competitive edge. Iowa has a rich and proud tradition of delivering an array of CTE opportunities through comprehensive high schools that make school relevant to students and help them graduate college and career ready. However, with antiquated state policy, Iowa is not maximizing opportunities to deliver globally competitive programming that meets the needs of its students, employers, and communities.

Legislative Mandate

The Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force was established as part of House File 604 to make recommendations that reduce skill shortages, enhance economic growth, and ensures that all students have access to high quality, globally competitive career and technical education programs. This legislation directed the Iowa Department of Education to establish a Secondary Career & Technical Education (CTE) Task Force to review and make recommendations on secondary career and technical education programs. This review is to consider measures to ensure consistency in career and technical education program quality statewide.

The legislation directs the task force to review provisions of the Iowa Code and related provisions of the Iowa administrative code relating to vocational (career and technical) education. The task force shall consider measures to ensure rigorous standards, consistency in program quality statewide, alignment with postsecondary programs leading to middle-skill occupations with family-sustaining wages, curricula that align workforce skills with industry-recognized standards where such standards exist, responsiveness to labor market needs, robust business and industry participation, including participation on advisory committees, and efficient statewide delivery of programming. The task force shall also review the definition of “career academy” and review and recommend core components of career academies and regional centers.

Task Force Membership

The Iowa Department of Education established a 25-member Secondary CTE Task Force with broad representation from public school districts, business and industry, community colleges, community stakeholders, organized labor, state agencies, and legislators.

Lead: Jeremy Varner, Administrator – Division of Community Colleges

Facilitator: David Bunting, Independent Education Consultant, Cedar Rapids

Karrie Abbott, Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of the Quad Cities Area,
Davenport

Mary Bontrager, Executive Vice President, Workforce Development/Education,
Greater Des Moines Partnership, Des Moines

Matt Bruinekool, Educational Consultant, Master Builders of Iowa, Des Moines

Josh Byrnes, State Representative, Osage*

Mark Chelgren, State Senator, Ottumwa*

Tom Cooley, Administrative Consultant, Iowa Department of Education*

Nicole Crain, Vice President, Government Relations, Association of Business and Industry,
Des Moines

Greg Dufoe, Superintendent, Adel-Desoto-Minburn Community School District, Adel

Chris Duree, Chancellor, Iowa Valley Community College District, Marshalltown

Murray Fenn, Consultant, Green Hills Area Education Agency, Council Bluffs

Scott Fortune, Iowa Association of School Boards, Des Moines

Jerry Kearns, State Representative, Keokuk*

Gail Kotval, Iowa Innovation Council Program Manager, Iowa Economic Development Authority,
Des Moines*

Dana Lampe, President, Iowa Association of Career and Technical Education, Marion

D.T. Magee, Executive Director, Iowa Board of Educational Examiners, Des Moines*

Randy Mead, Executive Dean of Program Development, Des Moines Area Community College,
Ankeny

Kathy Nacos-Burds, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Northeast Community College, Calmar

Julie Rosin, Assistant Director, Central Campus, Des Moines

Vicky Rossander, Executive Board Member, Iowa State Educational Association, Des Moines

Ken Sager, President, Iowa Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, Des Moines

Brian Schoenjahn, State Senator, Arlington*

Elliott Smith, Executive Director, Iowa Business Council, Des Moines

Lisa Stange, FCEDS Program Coordinator, Iowa State University, Ames

Ed Wallace, Deputy Director, Iowa Workforce Development, Des Moines*

Jeff Weld, Executive Director, Governor's STEM Advisory Council, Des Moines*

*Ex-officio/nonvoting member

Organizational Meeting

The Secondary CTE Task Force was convened on December 19th on the Ankeny Campus of Des Moines Area Community College, from 10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

The meeting included an overview of the legislative charge of the task force, the importance of the group's work, and foundational information regarding secondary career and technical education in Iowa. A resource notebook was provided to each task force members that included materials related to state law, CTE standards, career academies, career readiness, labor market information, and national studies.

Participants discussed key issues, barriers, and challenges for CTE at the secondary level. Information from these discussions was summarized to guide the task force's future work.

Plan of Work

The Secondary CTE Task Force will meet three times during the upcoming year. Smaller work teams, which will report to the full group, are being established around topic areas identified by the members and legislation. The work teams will likely be expanded to include individuals with specific expertise. Much of the small group work is expected to be completed through electronic meetings.

HF 604 established a two-year timeline for the task force to complete its work. A final report including findings and recommendations will be submitted to the legislature no later than November 1, 2015.

Task Force Meeting Schedule

The task force intends to meet three times during calendar year 2014. Specific dates, locations, and times for all meetings have not been determined. The task force is expected to continue into 2015.

Date	City	Facility	Time
December 19, 2013	Ankeny, Iowa	DMACC Conference Center	10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
March 7, 2014		TBD	9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Summer 2014		TBD	
Fall 2014		TBD	