

1) **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

I. Background

The State Board for Career and Technical Education receives approximately \$10,000,000 each biennium to support various programs around the state. These dollars are augmented with \$9,500,000 from federal sources and are used as a cost share incentive to encourage the establishment and delivery of career and technical education programs by school districts.

Cost share percentages vary by program. Area Career and Technology Education Centers receive 38 percent of all approved costs for comprehensive occupational programs in regional cooperative high schools. By contrast, instructional salaries and extended contracts at individual high schools receive only a 25 percent cost share.

Other programs operated through the State Board include Family and Consumer Science, Technology Education, Career Development, Cooperative Cost Sharing, and Adult Farm Management.

II. Principles for Change

- 1) Career and technical education (CTE) funding is not disbursed uniformly across the state. School districts must provide a majority of the funds for career and technical education programs. School districts with greater financial resources tend to have more opportunities to offer career and technical education programs and districts with sufficient numbers of

participating students tend to be better able to achieve the efficiencies necessary to run these programs. However, it appears that the presence or absence of career and technical education programs is directly related to the level of appreciation that exists for such programs in a given school district or group of districts.

- 2) Attempts to establish Area Career and Technology Centers have met with only partial success. There appear to be two major reasons for this fact: the cost share incentive for area centers has not been strong enough; and there has been no financial assistance to address the upfront cost of establishing a new Area Career and Technology Center.
- 3) Once a statewide program is established for career and technical education that has the capability of offering opportunities to 90 percent of all high school students through various means, then legislators can begin to discuss the overall level of state funding that should be in place to support such a program.
- 4) All Area Career and Technology Centers should coordinate their programs with regional economic development and workforce training programs.
- 5) To the extent possible, new and existing Area Career and Technology Centers should join with educational associations governed by JPAs to deliver career and technical education programs. There should be cooperation with respect to both administration and governance.

III. Recommendations

- 1) The Legislative Assembly should improve the uniformity of career and technical education across the state by promoting the development of more Area Career and Technology Centers and by seeking greater cooperation among school districts.
- 2) The Legislative Assembly should dramatically increase the funding incentives for Area Career and Technology Centers and for the cooperative delivery of career and technical education programs. The Legislative Assembly should add new funding (\$800,000) and ask the State Board for Career and Technical Education to reprioritize funding from other existing programs (\$500,000).
- 3) In addition, the Legislative Assembly should provide pilot program funding to the State Board for Career and Technical Education to defray the start-up costs of two new Area Career and Technology Centers. These funds (\$1,200,000) should be awarded on a competitive basis according to the number of new programs and the number of new students participating in the programs. State funds for the pilot projects should reimburse 75 percent of the approved costs and 25 percent should be provided by the participating school districts or educational associations governed by JPAs. Priority should be given to an educational association that proposes an area center capable of serving most of the association's members. In such a case, the cost of an administrator may be included. It

is envisioned that the first year of the biennium will be dedicated to awarding the pilot project grants and to completing the initial planning stage.

- 4) The majority of the new and rededicated dollars that are provided for Area Career and Technology Centers and for other cooperative delivery strategies (\$1,300,000) should be used as cost share incentives for centers that improve such things as transportation to central facilities having equipment that is shared, outreach delivery through online education and interactive video, and outreach through mobile labs.
- 5) All Area Career and Technology Centers should be organized to participate with city, county and regional economic development programs.
- 6) All Area Career and Technology Centers should be organized to participate with all local and regional workforce training initiatives.

IV. Legislation Required

- 1) The budget bill for the State Board of Career and Technical Education should include a line item for new pilot area centers. The bill should include cooperation incentives, and guidelines regarding the use of the pilot project funds.