

Wyoming Department of Education
Career Technical Education Update

to the
Joint Education Interim Committee

September 20-21, 2006
Cody, Wyoming

Presented by
Teri Wigert

Authority: Legislation/Statutes

- 2003-2006: W.S. 21-13-329 and W.S. 21-12-105
 - Career-Vocational course sequencing and program approval for 1.29 weighted funding for approved sequences and programs - fourth year
 - Career-Vocational programs are aligned with the nationally derived 16 career clusters
 - Career Vocational Education Program Grants
- 2006: W.S. 21-13-309 [*new law*] and W.S. 21-12-105
 - Career-Vocational course sequencing and program approval for 1.29 weighted funding for approved sequences and programs—*continuation into fourth year*
 - Career-Vocational programs are aligned with the nationally derived 16 career clusters – *continued effort*
 - Career Vocational Education Program Grants

History: Perspective/Process

- 1998 – MPR Associates, Inc. released a study titled, “Wyoming Education Finance Issues Report” which outlined the feasibility of developing a cost adjustment for vocational-technical education programs. The study found
 - Vocational education can be higher than the cost of other forms of instruction
 - The development of an adjustment to the cost-based basic grant model would preserve student access to vocational programs
 - Incentives to encourage educators to consider alternatives to traditional vocational programs
- 2001 – MPR Associates, Inc. released a study titled, “What Does It Cost?” which analyzed annual statewide expenditures for vocational education in Wyoming. Recommendations to the Legislature were:

- Allocate resources to assure districts are funded at their level of need, in a manner that encourages equitable, cost-effective delivery of services
 - Modify the state block grant model to serve as a vehicle for targeting state resources to districts with the greatest demand for student services, at a rate that compensates them for their added cost of providing vocational services
 - Consider establishment of a categorical grant to upgrade equipment and develop program standards to assure course offerings are of high quality and are reasonably cost effective
 - MPR conducted 16 sites visits to gather data
- 2002 – MPR Associates, Inc. released a study titled, “Allocating the Resources” which developed recommendations for a vocational cost adjustment to the Wyoming Education Resource Block Grant Model. Recommendations were:
 - Compensate districts for their intensity of vocational program services
 - Consider incorporation of an adjustment in the formula to support vocational equipment upgrades [1.29 weighting]
 - Fund vocational program start-up costs through a separate competitive grant program authorized at \$250,000 per year
 - Allocate resources to administer the vocational funding model
 - Require districts to report annually on how vocational resources are used, but do not impose a categorical spending constraint
 - MPR again conducted 16 site visits (to different districts than before) to gather data
- 2006 – MPR Associates, Inc. has again been retained to respond to the state’s charge to continue to improve CTE by developing a strategic plan to improve CTE delivery in Wyoming. The process will:
 - Promote college and work-readiness in Wyoming
 - Assess promising strategies for rapid and significantly improved CTE delivery, as well as comprehensive, industry-focused programs of integrated academic and technical education
 - Invite feedback from a small advisory committee
 - Interview key stakeholders
 - Conduct on-site visits to a limited number of high schools
 - Establish a final strategic plan
 - Provide a briefing to legislators and policymakers on the major findings and recommendations.

<p>Actions: Data/Participation/Trainings</p>
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- Career-Vocational Education Program grants have been awarded for three years of a five year program
- Career Clusters have been established in the high schools of Wyoming through course sequencing and the additional funding program

- Career Cluster planning booklets and guides will be dispersed to the districts beginning with the 2006-2007 school year to provide all students in grades 8-12 with career planning information that fits the Hathaway Scholarship Plan
- There are 478 CTE programs offered in Wyoming High Schools
- There are 2,046 CTE courses offered in Wyoming High Schools
- There are 503 CTE teachers
- There are 443.5 FTE teachers in the CTE category
- 98% of high school students in Wyoming take at least one CTE course

Financial: Expenditures To Date/Anticipated Other Costs

- We are in our fourth year of a five year legislative program via 309 and 105
- Vocational education adjustments paid to Wyoming school districts for the past 3 years (2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06) was \$4,092,226.
- Vocational education adjustment estimated for 2006-07 (based upon Wyoming Funding Model 1.0c) is:
 - \$2,785,146 [Teacher compensation which flows to districts in block grants through student FTE and teacher FTE counts]
 - \$2,508,630 [Vocational equipment and supplies which flows to districts in block grants]
 - \$5.2 million total for 2006-07
- Career-Vocational Education Program Grant [Competitive programs]:
 - Urgency Grant in 2002-2003: \$750,000.00 [for emergency CTE equipment needs]
 - Career-Vocational Education Program Grants 2003-2006: \$750,000.00 over 3 years [for first year CTE teachers, new programs, curriculum development, equipment]

Results: Outcomes/Feedback

- CTE courses and programs continue to change to meet student and workforce needs with each annual collection
- Career guidance of students in grades 8-12 is expected to be positively influenced by the Career Cluster Planners and Guides
- Career Vocational Educational Program Grants continue to support, on average, five to six school districts annually
- The 1.29 weighting for approved course sequences and programs aligned to career clusters continues to provide additional funding for Wyoming High Schools in the block grant funding scheme

Recommendations: Next Steps

- Continue to support the effort [and new strategic plan] to improve strategies for CTE delivery in our high schools
- Continue to support the Career-Vocational Education Program Grant [105]

- Continue to support the course sequencing and program approval process for districts to gain additional funding for CTE programs [309]
- Continue support for the Hathaway Scholarship concept which utilizes the Career Plan and Career Cluster guides for students to create career pathways to the workforce and college