



## Florida Association for Career and Technical Education 2022 Legislative Platform

**Request: Provide funding to achieve a fully equitable workforce education allocation model for the Technical College System**

- **Rationale:** During the 2020 legislative session, the Technical Colleges received a funding increase in the base allocation, however, the amount fell short of fully funding all school districts. The Technical Colleges were level funded in the 2021 legislative session due to COVID- 19 budget concerns. The request to set the goal of 100% equity, using the workforce fund allocation model, will allowed the Technical Colleges to meet the increased operational/personnel costs that occur each year without eliminating instructional programs to maintain a balanced budget. Grant opportunities to expand program offerings can be more fully utilized, without jeopardizing the established catalog of programs. We propose the use of Governor’s DeSantis language in his proposed budget.

**Request: Continue to appropriate \$6.5 million to school district’s workforce education programs for performance-based industry certifications earned by post-secondary students in the 2021-2022 school year.**

- **Rationale:** The attainment of recognized industry credential(s) is critical component of every CTE program and an expected outcome for each student. Sufficient funds are needed to maintain the level of reimbursement per credential at \$1000. These performance dollars are used to pay for the cost of the third party exams and to support our career and technical programs.

**Request: Approve categorical funding for Technical Colleges to open and expand new CTE instructional programs deemed high wage, high skill, and in high demand to meet regional and state employment needs.**

- **Rationale:** Current allocation levels do not provide sufficient funds to open new CTE programs that meet industry standards, i.e., personnel, facility, and equipment costs.



**Request: Proposing the creation of s. 1007.32, F.S. to allow technical career centers to submit a request for approval by the SBE to offer and confer select A.S. degree programs.**

**Rationale:** The acute shortage of registered nurses in Florida and throughout the nation has a significant negative impact on the quality of health care. We propose creating a career pathway for our Practical Nursing program graduates who have passed the NCLEX, to enroll in an RN program (ASN degree) at our Technical Colleges. This will extend and increase the pipeline for qualified healthcare professionals. The process for offering this AS degree in the technical college system would follow a similar model as the state college system uses when expanding their baccalaureate degree programs.

Students attending technical colleges/centers are limited in the level of credential attainment available to them to an Applied Technology Diploma or a College Career Certificate. Most importantly, there are critical shortages and misalignments between programs and job openings in high-demand fields (such as healthcare) that, if allowed, technical colleges/centers can help to fill. Given that some of our technical colleges/ tech centers are currently prepared for A.S. accreditation and otherwise able to provide certain A.S. degrees, current Florida law unnecessarily restricts capable educational institutions from providing *higher* education to FL residents.

**Request: Amend language in s.1003.4282(3)(e)**

Existing language s.1003.4282(3)(e): One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. —*The practical arts course must incorporate artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination. Eligible practical arts courses are identified in the Course Code Directory.*

Proposed language:

*One credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or ~~practical arts~~ career and technical education. —~~The practical arts course must incorporate artistic content and techniques of creativity, interpretation, and imagination. Eligible practical arts courses are identified in the Course Code Directory.~~*

**Rationale:** The standard high school diploma requires one credit in fine or performing arts, speech and debate, or practical arts. Historically, career/CTE courses were classified as practical arts courses, but that is becoming no longer the case. Consequently, many students, especially those concentrating in CTE or on the CTE graduation pathway have difficulties meeting this requirement. This will allow CTE concentrators and students simply exploring career education the opportunity to do so while still earning required high school credit.



**Request: Remove existing language (1008.44-2)**

Remove existing language (1008.44-2): ~~Each district must allocate at least 80 percent of the funds provided for CAPE industry certification, in accordance with this paragraph, to the program that generated the funds. This allocation may not be used to supplant funds provided for basic operation of the program.~~

Replace with:

*Each district must allocate 100 percent of the funds provided for CAPE industry certification, in accordance with this paragraph, to Career and Technical Education; of which at least 80 percent must be allocated to the programs that generated the funds; and up to 20 percent may be allocated to the district CTE office for the support and development of career education and CAPE programs. This allocation may not be used to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the program.*

**Rationale:** To require greater accountability for LEAs to ensure CAPE performance money is used for its intended purpose, which is to support the programs that generate the bonus funding. Currently the language is being interpreted by some LEAs that the funds can be used for the salaries of permanent staff and/or for shoring the general fund. Section 1011.62(1)(o)2., F.S., prohibits the use of the allocation to supplant funds provided for the basic operation of the program, which includes instructional salaries of teachers. Districts are provided funds for the course enrollments through s. 1011.62, F.S

**REQUEST: Delete all 1004.91 and replace with:**

1004.91 Requirements for career education program basic skills

(1) The State Board of Education shall adopt career and technical education frameworks which incorporate all basic skills necessary to support performance in each career certificate education program.

Each school district and Florida College System institution that conducts programs that confer career and technical certificates shall provide applied academics instruction within the program as determined by the frameworks.

**Rationale:**

Students are being unjustly impacted by an assessment unrelated to the enrolled program requirements. They are currently prohibited from receiving a certificate in the program they have successfully completed, because they cannot pass this basic skills exam, even though they have proven competency in the basic skills necessary to succeed in their chosen program of study.