

LD 313 – Resolve To Advance Career and Technical Education Opportunities in Maine

Sec. 1 Purpose. Resolved: The resolve proposes the creation of work group to explore innovative approaches to advancing Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for middle and high school students.

Sec. 2 Duties. Resolved: The work group will be responsible for:

- conducting a statewide inventory of available programs;
- addressing existing systemic barriers to expanding access to career and technical education programs;
- exploring options for CTE programs to be included in STEM endorsements;
- recommending changes to the career and technical education teacher certification process to address the shortage of career and technical education teachers by acknowledging skills demonstrated in a trade or profession;
- proposing multiple college and career pathways for students to learn and demonstrate their knowledge in the career and technical education setting while creating programs that address the State's critical workforce shortage.

Sec. 3 Membership. Resolved:

The work group consists of 16 members as follows:

1. One member of a Regional Chamber of Commerce;
2. One member of the State Chamber of Commerce;
3. One superintendent of a School Administrative Unit (SAU) which has an industrial arts program;
4. The Commissioner of Education or the Commissioner's designee;
5. One representative from a trade association;
6. One representative from the Maine Community College System;
7. One member of the Maine Association of Nonprofits;
8. One parent of a current CTE student;
9. One student from a CTE and Bridge program;
10. One representative from an organization representing Superintendents;
11. One representative from an organization representing Principals;
12. One representative from an organization representing CTE Directors;
13. One principal of a School Administrative Unit;
14. One member of the Maine Climate Council;
15. The Commissioner of Labor or the Commissioner's designee;
16. The Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development or the Commissioner's designee.

Sec. 4 Pathways. Resolved:

The task force will consider new pathways within CTE programming by:

- proposing CTE coursework for School Counselor Certification;
- exploring an Industrial Arts Pathway under the CTE program framework;
- considering technical mathematics and technical writing as equivalencies to local secondary school coursework requirements;
- exploring the availability of internships and apprenticeships statewide, related to a program of study.

Sec. 5 Certification. Resolved: The task force will consider refinements to the Career and Technical Education certification which shall include the following:

- changing current endorsements codes to their assigned Classification of Instructional Program (CIP) codes;
- creating an endorsement code for the following CTE EPS Funded positions that currently do not exist:
 - CTE Student Services Coordinator
 - CTE Career Counselor
- initiating a CTE certification workgroup composed of Maine DOE representatives, CTE Directors, CTE Student Services Coordinators, and CTE Career Counselors to review the upcoming certification rulemaking.

Sec. 6 Funding. Resolved:

The task force will utilize the data provided by the MEPRI draft report available Summer of 2021 to consider:

- fully funding the EPS CTE formula as proposed to support the State Board of education goals of increasing statewide CTE enrollment. Including a weighted amount per student with special needs, ELL learning needs;
- creating a formula approach to include an allowance for yearly building maintenance, capital improvements, and equipment costs;
- funding middle school CTE separately from 9-12 CTE funding based on the data provided at the completion of the current pilots ending by June 30, 2022;
- developing a regional index for salary adjustments across the State with a specific CTE teacher/administrator salary matrix;
- an adjustment to the student teacher ratio for those programs that have legal requirements/industry restrictions determining the student-instructor ratio.

Sec. 7. Report. Resolved: The Department of Education will report back an interim report to the Joint Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs which will include recommendations by December 15, 2021. A final report will be provided by June 1, 2022.