



Office of CTE Newsletter
January 23, 2023

This update is provided by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education, housed under the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can [sign up here](#). Questions can be shared with CTE@gov.IN.gov.

CTE Spotlight

In the new year, our team plans to add a spotlight at the beginning of each newsletter. This will be an opportunity to highlight a variety of different items important to the CTE community.

Today's topic is the [Education Readiness Grant](#) program. Earlier this month, the Office of CTE announced the 2nd year of this grant program. The program is facilitated in partnership with [Conexus Indiana](#) and [TechPoint](#) and provides grants to high schools implementing select programs in advanced manufacturing and information technology. The four eligible Next Level Programs of Study are Industry 4.0 - Smart Manufacturing, Industrial Automation and Robotics, Cybersecurity, and Software Development.

While this is a targeted grant and the funds available will only allow for a limited number of grantees, this grant opportunity serves as a model for implementing high-quality programs of study that both provide tremendous opportunity for students, but also serve as a key strategy for addressing local industry needs. The grant was designed with a particular focus on a couple of the priorities our office continues to promote as key to successful CTE programs:

- **Partnering with Industry and Employers:** Building collaborative partnerships with employers, industry groups and other community groups is at the heart of high quality CTE. The grant requires that a school connect with key businesses in the field. Having industry to help advise schools on the equipment that they use every day and the skills they need can help ensure that students who complete the program are prepared for success. Our partnership with Conexus Indiana and TechPoint allows our team to garner that same industry expertise through the application review process to ensure we are selecting schools that are utilizing the funds to acquire the most effective technology and equipment.
- **Offering High-Quality Work-Based Learning (WBL):** This year a requirement was added that the school must partner with at least one employer to embed a high-quality WBL experience for students in the pathway. Participating in WBL is one of the three primary measures of program quality, but more importantly can give students the opportunity to earn higher wages and advance more quickly in a career.

High schools and career centers are encouraged to apply for one of the Education Readiness Grants by the application deadline of February 15. Even if the grant is not relevant to your current plans, the

components of what our team is looking for in the applications are key to consider when implementing any program of study within a school or community. For additional help in implementing programs of study, the [NLPS Planning Guide](#) developed last year is a great resource. For more information about the grants, including the application, [click here](#).

2023 Legislative Session

The 2023 Legislative Session of the Indiana General Assembly is now underway. Our office is monitoring legislation that has been filed and will be working with the Governor's Office, members of the General Assembly, and other stakeholders as different bills move through the legislative process.

Governor Holcomb outlined a variety of education and workforce items in his [2023 Next Level agenda](#). The Governor's proposed budget includes a significant increase in industry certification funding, an item our office has continued to prioritize based on conversations with schools and career centers.

Proposed legislation, hearing schedules, and additional information can be found on the General Assembly's website [here](#). As more details emerge on specific bills, our office will share additional information in future updates.

NLPS Capstone Courses

As the transition to NLPS continues, many schools and career centers are now ready to begin offering NLPS Capstone courses in the next school year. Building on information shared this fall, below are a few reminders as it relates to Capstone courses based on questions received:

- The NLPS Capstone courses are designed to be similar to the current Level II courses in that they may be offered for 1-3 credits per semester and ideally embed high quality work-based learning experiences. **Students may be enrolled in 2, 4 or 6 total credits** over the course of the year.
- By design, NLPS Capstone courses contain up to 4 credits worth of content/classroom instruction and the option to use 2 credits for embedded work-based learning opportunities. Students using the NLPS Capstone courses for WBL must also be enrolled in at least 2 credits of classroom instruction. **Students doing WBL but not participating in at least 2 credits of classroom related instruction should be enrolled in the WBL Capstone Course (5974).**
- As long as a student doesn't exceed 6 credits in a pathway for a given year, students may be enrolled in a Concentrator A and/or B course and the Pathway Capstone course at the same time.
- There are additional capstone options for students besides the NLPS pathway capstone and the WBL Capstone course. Students who have completed the concentrator sequence in any pathway (except Entrepreneurship), are able to enroll in the Entrepreneurship and New Ventures Capstone. New for next year, is the Advanced Digital Skills Capstone (7396). This capstone course is available to any concentrator except for Information Technology and Computer Science pathways. This course will focus on applying advanced digital skills to a particular industry or occupation.

- Students that have completed the concentrator courses for an Agriculture program of study may take Agribusiness Management, Agricultural Research, Agriculture Biotechnology, or a Supervised Agricultural Experience.
- Be creative when offering NLPS Capstones. Teacher capacity will be a challenge for some schools when offering these courses. Because of the number of dual enrollment only courses that are in the capstone course, they represent a great opportunity for a student to go on an Ivy Tech/Vincennes campus and take the coursework needed to complete a certificate. The high school may be able to use the CTE funding received to help cover or defray the tuition costs of the courses.

CTE Course Funding Memo

The CTE funding memo for the 2023-24 school year was approved at the December State Board of Education meeting. The memo is developed annually by the Department of Workforce Development (in consultation with the Office of CTE) and can be [found here](#). A summary of changes to course funding from the prior year is [available here](#).

2022-2023 CTE Awards for Excellence

The annual CTE Awards for Excellence will once again be held in May. The event celebrates accomplished secondary and postsecondary students, programs of study, employer partnerships and guidance counselors in CTE throughout the state. All nominees are evaluated on a set of identified criteria following nominations from CTE directors, instructors, postsecondary representatives and other stakeholders across Indiana.

Nominations for the awards are now available and links to each of the forms are shared below. Entities have until March 1 to submit nominations.

- [Secondary Information and Nomination Forms](#)
- [Postsecondary Information and Nomination Forms](#)

CTE Concentrator Clarification

The below guidance concerns using the NLPS Capstone course as part of a student's grade in a Next Level Program of Study for the purposes of Graduation Pathways. Following feedback received on earlier guidance and discussions with the Department of Education, the language below is our updated shared policy on this subject. This policy replaces guidance shared in the October 11th update from our office.

Students using NLPS courses to earn CTE concentrator status must receive a C average (as determined by your local grading scale) or higher in **All** concentrator sequence courses (Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B) for the purposes of Graduation Pathways.

The Capstone course may be used if it would benefit a student's GPA, supporting the C average requirement for concentrator status. A school may choose to include the cumulative grade average earned in this capstone to meet the C average requirement.

By using the capstone, the C average would be based on grades earned in all of the following courses: Principles, Concentrator A, Concentrator B, and the cumulative capstone grade.

C Average Requirement: If a student is enrolled in a CTE Program of Study fulfilling their Bucket 3 requirement for their Graduation Pathway, they must complete the required courses with a C average. As long as the grade is within the C range for your school district's grading scale, concentrator status will be approved for Graduation Pathways. The specific GPA for the C average is a local decision determined by each school district.

Reminder - Grading Policies

The following is shared as guidance for handling situations with NLPS courses where a student is moving on to the next course in a program of study, but did not receive a passing grade in their current course. Because pre-requisites and funding are based on fall enrollments, students are eligible to move on to the next course during the same school year, even if they failed a previous course. The student would need to repeat or be enrolled in the failed course the following school year before taking any additional courses in the program of study. Adjustments have been made in InTERS to allow a student to go back and repeat a full course or a semester of a course. An example is shared below:

- A student is enrolled in a Principles course and a Concentrator A course for the 2022-23 SY. The Principles course content was taught during the fall semester with the Concentrator A content taught in the spring semester (the program enrollment option).
- The student fails the Principles course during the fall semester. The student can move on and take the Concentrator A course during the spring.
- In the 23-24 SY, the student must complete or be re-enrolled in the Principles course in order to move on to the Concentrator B course and be eligible for CTE funding.

While having a student go back and repeat a course or part of a course the following year is possible, the OCTE encourages the school to first determine whether the student plans or desires to continue in the pathway. If not, the student can be removed from the course/program. If they plan to continue, schools are encouraged to work with the student to remediate or make up missed work and then reassess.

Completions of courses are not due in InTERS until the end of the school year and completions for all courses can be submitted at the same time. We realize that you may have local policies regarding incompletes that may make this challenging, but this option should serve students better than having the student repeat that part of the course the following year.

External Opportunity: Innovate WithIN

Applications are currently open for the annual Innovate WithIN program. This is an annual statewide pitch competition. High schoolers from every region of the state have the chance to pitch their entrepreneurial idea for a chance at \$25,000 and the opportunity to collaborate with other innovators to help turn their business from a dream into a reality. Find the application and additional information [here](#). Applications are available through February 3.