



Office of CTE Bi-Weekly Update September 10, 2021

This update is provided by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education, housed under the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. The Office of CTE provides an update on activity related to CTE on a bi-weekly basis throughout the academic year.

The bi-weekly update is the primary way the Office of CTE shares information related to career and technical education with the entire CTE community. We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can [sign up here](#). If you are no longer interested in receiving these updates, a link to unsubscribe can be found at the end of this update. Questions can be directed to CTE@gov.IN.gov.

Next Level Programs of Study

CTE/NLPS Dual Credit Crosswalk: A CTE Dual Credit Crosswalk for NLPS courses will be posted by Tuesday, September 14th on the [Office of CTE Program of Study webpage](#). The Crosswalk will represent information shared in the NLPS Review Document in a more accessible manner. To help alleviate any confusion, the Office of CTE and Commission for Higher Education will maintain both a crosswalk for current CTE courses and a crosswalk for NLPS courses during the transition to NLPS. The plan is to make only minimal changes to the CTE crosswalk for current courses.

Postsecondary courses that are listed on the NLPS crosswalk may not appear on the crosswalk for current CTE courses. In these situations, the postsecondary course is only eligible for dual credit if the school is using NLPS courses. This is based on the direct alignment between the NLPS courses and the postsecondary courses on the list. The NLPS list shares only Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B courses for this school year. Capstone courses will be added later this fall for the 2022-2023 school year.

NLPS 2021-2022 Opt-Ins and 2022-2023 Launch: Thanks to feedback from schools and career centers in recent weeks, our team has been able to collect information about the number of schools that have opted in to offering NLPS courses for the 2021-2022 school year. At least one school or career center has opted into NLPS in 46 of the 52 pathways available for the 2021-2022 school year and over 450 schools are opting into at least one NLPS course. Office of CTE staff will be continuing to collect feedback from these programs and schools as we prepare for statewide implementation of NLPS next year.

The full slate of NLPS courses available in the 2022-2023 school year will be shared in October following the State Board of Education meeting. Schools can expect an updated Course Titles and Descriptions, additional trainings and webinars, an updated Career Guide, and additional resources in the coming months to help prepare for implementing NLPS in the 2022-2023 school year. Upcoming communications will continue to highlight the driving factors behind the change to NLPS and the benefits that will be available to students through the implementation of NLPS.

K-12 SEALs Transition to Office of CTE

A transition of the Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships from the Department of Workforce Development to the Governor's Workforce Cabinet has been in the works for the last several months and is expected to be finalized soon. One of the main initiatives of OWBLA has been the development of State Earn and Learn (SEAL) programs. SEALs are a form of work-based learning that can utilize registered or non-registered apprenticeships. Since its inception, OWBLA has worked with 55 high schools and career centers over the last few years to develop nearly 100 SEALs in the K-12 or youth space and around 30 in the adult space.

As the office transitions, K-12 SEALs and WBL will now be overseen by the OCTE to allow OWBLA more time to focus on adult SEALs and registered apprenticeships. The transition provides an opportunity to better and more directly integrate K-12 SEALs and other pre-apprenticeship programs within ongoing efforts to improve Indiana's CTE system. Integrating pre-apprenticeship programs into NLPS will help to decrease duplication of effort, increase employer engagement, and help improve the quality of outcomes available to students.

The GWC Policy Committee (a committee made up of several members of the GWC) is currently in the process of evaluating existing pre-apprenticeship programs (SEAL's, Modern Apprenticeships, etc.) to develop a framework of standards that programs must meet. During this period of transition, the OCTE is going to pause on certifying any new SEALs. OCTE staff will place a priority on working with pending SEALs to minimize any impact this pause may have.

Any questions about existing or pending K-12 SEALs may be directed to [Tony Harl](#). Schools may receive an email from the OWBLA Regional Director that was serving as your point of contact for a SEAL as a reminder and to help facilitate the handoff of K-12 SEALs between OWBLA and the OCTE.

Online Courses and Credits

Our office has received several questions regarding whether credits earned in online courses count toward CTE concentrator status. Our current policies allow online courses to count for credit even

though they are not eligible for additional tuition support unless it is offered through a postsecondary institution. This policy will remain in effect through the 2021-2022 school year.

Despite this policy staying in effect, there remains significant concerns about counting credits earned in online courses toward concentrator status. The primary concern is the inability of online courses to offer the hands-on learning necessary to fully demonstrate the competencies outlined in many of our CTE courses. The OCTE is considering several options that would go into effect for the 2022-2023 school year. In past years, there was an attempt to maintain a list of approved online courses that could count for credit. It is no longer practical for our office to maintain an approved list of online courses that count for credit considering the number of online courses that are now available.

COVID-19 Recommendations and Reminders

As schools continue to encounter challenges brought on by COVID-19, we have shared a few reminders from previous guidance and new information based on recent developments.

Virtual Course Policies: The only virtual and online CTE courses that are eligible for funding are those that have been approved for 100% virtual or online courses through a postsecondary institution. The Office of CTE released guidance for online and virtual courses in July of 2020 to address challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those policies remain in place for the 2021-2022 school year. The policy document can be found [here](#) and contains a definition of in-person, hybrid (blended), virtual, and online courses. The document also includes a course list that details the requirements for hands-on instruction for courses being offered in a hybrid (blended) model. Courses on the list that are highlighted in yellow are available to be offered 100% virtually. Because using NLPS courses is optional for this school year, NLPS courses may not be offered 100% virtually or online.

The policies detailed above do not apply to short-term closures/remote learning or to individuals that are joining courses virtually while they are quarantining.

CNA Clinicals: Ivy Tech has released a letter regarding their CNA program and vaccination requirements. The letter points out that students who cannot complete clinicals because they do not meet the vaccination requirements of the clinical placement site will not receive credit from ITCC. Even if a student has an approved exemption, facilities may not allow them to participate in clinicals. This would result in a student being unable to receive credit from ITCC.

Many healthcare facilities across the country are now requiring employees to be vaccinated and long-term care facilities will soon be operating under federal mandates to require all employees, including students, to be vaccinated. Because of these requirements, students participating in CNA or other Health Science programs are strongly encouraged to get the vaccination if they have not already done so. Secondary schools offering CNA programs may opt to allow the student to earn high

school credit toward concentrator status without the clinical hours. This option would exclude students from being eligible to sit for the state exam.

WBL and Vaccine Requirements: Students are expected to meet employer's vaccination requirements for WBL placements. Unlike last year, students should not be awarded credit for the WBL Capstone Course or Cooperative Education without a WBL placement.

IACTE Fall Conference / New and Newer Conference

Registration is still open for the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education (IACTE) Fall Conference taking place on September 24-25. The conference will now be taking place in a completely virtual format. Information about the conference and a registration link can be found [here](#). Office of CTE staff will facilitate sessions at the conference on Next Level Programs of Study and Equity in the CTE Classroom.

The conference portion for teachers who are new or with limited experience has been merged into the regular conference schedule rather than taking place on the 23rd as originally planned. This aspect will be facilitated by Office of CTE staff and include sessions designed to explore the ACTE Program of Study Quality Framework.

Industry Certifications

Graduation Pathways Eligible Certifications: The **2021-2022 Grad Pathways Eligible Certifications List is now available and can be found [here](#)**. Individuals looking to check whether a certification qualifies for Graduation Pathways should consult this list. The Department of Workforce Development and Department of Education worked in collaboration with the Office of CTE to consolidate the [2019-2020 Grad Pathways eligible certifications](#) and the [Addendum list](#) developed last year into this single list of certifications. A few of the certifications are designated with a red **YES***. These certifications will count toward Graduation Pathways for the 21-22 school year. However, these certifications have since been removed from the Promoted Certification List or do not meet the criteria that is currently being finalized and likely will not be approved for Graduation Pathways for the 2022-2023 school year.

As a reminder, state agencies are close to finalizing criteria for the 22-23 list. Once the criteria are complete, all of the certifications on the Promoted Certification List will be reviewed to determine which certifications will count for Graduation Pathways for the 22-23 school year. The list is anticipated to be completed and released in October.

Employer Connector Tool Student Release Forms

The Governor's Workforce Cabinet launched a new tool that allows employers to more easily connect with CTE students who are looking for employment opportunities. [The new tool](#) allows employers to connect with students by requesting their contact information through an online form that is received by Office of CTE staff. Employers can request information for students who have obtained CTE concentrator status and the tool allows them to focus on any particular program that is of interest to the employer. Comments or questions regarding the tool can be directed to SRourke@gov.IN.gov.

Office of CTE staff have begun fielding requests from employers utilizing the tool. **As a reminder, students can only be connected with employers if they have completed a CTE Student Release Form.** The form can be found at the following links: [English version](#), [Spanish version](#). While the form is entirely optional, schools are encouraged to ensure students are aware of this opportunity and to make the form easily accessible to students participating in CTE. Students should be assured that their information will only be shared with legitimate Indiana employers who are seeking to provide information about available career opportunities.

Fall InTERS Training

Fall trainings have been occurring in recent weeks for the state's comprehensive data management system, InTERS. In addition to several in-person trainings, a virtual webinar was held last week. To view a recording of that webinar, [click here](#). These trainings provide key information for anyone who assists with importing or entering school data. Questions regarding the trainings can be directed to [Jedd Vance](#).