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Year One Plan for the Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts

Introduction:

The Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts (CCISD) is a coalition of seven school districts representing small, large, rural, suburban, and urban districts united to focus on innovative ideas, improving student learning, and taking purposeful risks to better serve all students in Indiana. When granted flexibility to eliminate barriers that inhibit student achievement or outcomes, CCISD will learn from each other, cultivate innovative best practices and serve as model districts for other schools to replicate student successes.

The initial cohort of seven school districts; Batesville Community Schools, Concord Community Schools, Crothersville Community Schools, Greater Clark County Schools, and Metropolitan School District of Decatur Township, Elkhart Community Schools, and Goshen Community Schools will implement their own respective strategies to promote student success for the over 44,000 students they collectively serve.

The vision of the CCISD is to act as purposeful risk takers disrupting the status quo to meet the needs of our diverse learners. Our mission is to challenge traditional thinking and construct brighter futures through collegiality with a focus on research-based practices. As a coalition, we believe that we must:

- Serve as a think tank;
- Maintain openness to ideas;
- Identify the horizon and be on the edge of change;
- Cultivate key partnerships;
- Build bridges that span organizations for the advancement of workforce development;
- Overcome resistance; and
- Embrace change for betterment of student success.

Programmatic Information:

- The focus of the CCISD will be to expand and maximize co-ops, internship, and other work-based learning opportunities.
- The CCISD will leverage partnerships with:
 - Ivy Tech: to assist students in earning college credits prior to graduation from high school with dual credit and dual enrollment programming. In many cases, these credits are stackable into postsecondary credentials (Certificates, Technical Certificates, and Associate Degrees);
 - Local businesses and industries: with the goal of increasing employability and transferability of technical and academic skills. Businesses also serve the purpose of providing students with embedded work-based learning opportunities. These opportunities provide the foundation for applied learning and the building of professional skills needed for employability in high wage, high demand jobs; and

- Community organizations and foundations: these partners can help serve as a conduit between our schools and local industries by being hubs of collaboration and innovative ideas.

Year one flexibility request:

The focus of the CCISD for the 2018-19 school year will center on flexibility in the following areas:

- Teacher Licensure
- Core 40 curriculum flexibility

CCISD will create and share a dashboard that will capture longitudinal data documenting work-based learning opportunities focused on earned dual credits and certifications for students. The Coalition will utilize granted flexibility to leverage and expand programs that increase student outcomes and achievements while communities meet local workforce demands. The intent is to create greater value for the schools and communities while using fewer resources. Increased student outcomes and achievements expected from this increased flexibility include:

- Increased work-based experience opportunities.
- Increased value of HS diplomas.
- Increased employability and upward mobility skills.
- Employer financial commitment for training and educational attainment (earn and learn programs).
- Meet the needs of regional workforce demands.
- Increase HS course offerings while potentially decreasing class sizes.

Year one metrics:

Section I. Data Collection

The Coalition of Continuous Improvement School Districts will collaborate with the State Board of Education to develop a data collection system regarding the following:

1. The fiscal impact on each coalition member of the member's participation in a coalition.
2. The qualifications of each teacher who teaches in a coalition, as follows:
 - a. Whether the teacher holds a license under IC 20-28.
 - b. Whether the teacher is paid by:
 - i. a coalition member; or
 - ii. another employer.
3. The type of future employment for which a student in a coalition is trained if the student is trained in a type of employment.
4. The amount and terms of compensation for each student who receives compensation from a member of business or industry through a coalition's partnership.
5. The impact of a coalition member's participation in a coalition on the coalition member's graduation rates.
6. Information regarding where a student in a coalition obtains full-time employment when the student graduates or leaves school.

The Indiana State Board of Education will receive an annual report on all of the data collected. In addition, the CCISD members will provide a report focused on the detailed evaluation of the success of the year one CCISD initiative.