

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

**COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATIONS, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC**

**BLUEPRINT: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, AND INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS**

The Carl D. Perkins Act of 1984 defines vocational education as "organized educational programs offering a sequence of courses which are directly related to the preparation of individuals in paid or unpaid employment in current or emerging occupations requiring other than a baccalaureate or advanced degree." While vocational education is provided at both the secondary and postsecondary levels, its focus differs somewhat at each level. The Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program courses at Miami-Dade County Public Schools are the vocational education programs that prepare individuals for occupations important to Florida's economic development. These programs are organized into 17 different career clusters and are geared toward middle school, high school, district technical school, and Florida College System students throughout the County and the State. With the help of partners in education, business and industry, and trade associations, each program has a primary goal of giving residents of Miami-Dade County the academic and technical skills required to be successful in today's economy.

The objectives of CTE are more varied at the secondary than at the postsecondary level. Secondary vocational courses can be classified into three types: (1) consumer and homemaking education; (2) general labor market preparation; and (3) specific labor market preparation; specific labor market preparation courses teach students the skills needed to enter a particular occupational field. Occupational fields in the local economy are in areas such as finance, business management and administration, information technology, arts, agriculture, audio-vision technology and communication, education and training, hospitality and tourism, insurance, automobile mechanics, building trades and construction, health care, shipping, transportation and logistics (by air, sea or land), government and public administration, legal administration and court reporting, public safety and security, marketing, sales and service.

Vocational education programs have historically been viewed as a means of providing students who do not wish to pursue a general education curriculum or who have not shown the aptitude for attending a university postgraduation, with an opportunity to gain the technical skills and training to be able to enter the workforce immediately upon graduation in a vocational or technical field.

As the markets change with developing technology, new skills and jobs are needed in the new economy. Therefore, it is important that our CTE Programs are consistently

evaluating the local industry and markets to determine whether the courses being taught are skills that our local industry wants to meet the needs of an ever-changing economy.

This item requests that the Superintendent contact local businesses and/or business and industry associations and conduct a survey of jobs and occupations needed in the current economy, and skills needed in the next 5-10 years to assess whether the courses being offered are relevant to the local job market.

In addition, this item seeks to request a report from the Superintendent concerning the location and availability of such CTE courses to Miami-Dade residents, to determine if adjustments are needed to ensure that such training and classes are available to local residents who are ready, willing, and able to be trained.

This item has been reviewed and approved as to form and legal sufficiency by the School Board Attorney.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS-MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to:

1. submit a report to the Board regarding the number of students currently enrolled in Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program courses, listed by demographic subgroups, and Board Member Districts;
2. consult with and/or survey area businesses and/or business and industry associations to determine what skills are currently needed in the local economy and statewide, and what skills will be needed in five and ten years;
3. review current Miami-Dade County Public Schools CTE course offerings to determine the degree of alignment with the needs of the local, State and national economy; and
4. survey current and former students who participate(d) in CTE courses to determine whether their preferred fields of interest are accessible, whether they successfully completed their CTE courses and whether the CTE courses have been useful to them in obtaining gainful employment, and include the survey results in the report to the Board; and
5. provide the referenced reports to the Board by the August 11, 2021 at the Academics, Innovation, Evaluation, & Technology Committee meeting.