



Nebraska State Board of Education
2015 Career Education
Study Committee Report

2016
Assessment of
Progress



Career Education Teacher Supply

AQuESTT Tenant Impacted: Educator Effectiveness

Issue: Nebraska is currently facing a career education teacher shortage. While we currently have an adequate supply in Business Education, we have severe shortages in the areas of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources; Family and Consumer Sciences; and Skilled and Technical Sciences. We also need to examine the preparation of Computer Science/Information Technology teachers, and we are continuing to build opportunities for the preparation of Health Science teachers.

Number of Institutions offering CTE endorsement

	Business	Industrial Tech	Agriculture	FACS	Information Tech
2003-2004	15 Subject/9 Field	4	1	4	9
2014-2015	9 Subject/9 Field	2	1	2	5

Opportunity	Solutions	Leadership	Timeline
Increase number of individuals entering career education educator preparation programs.	Modify career education certificate to a career education permit	NDE	Completed
	Expand 2+2 program with community colleges (CCC, MCC, NECC and SCC are on board) to work with Skilled and Technical Sciences educator preparation programs at UNL and Wayne State	NDE	Completed
	Establish a career education permit teacher orientation to prepare CE permit holders for teaching	NDE	Completed
	Create new Health Science Supplemental Endorsement to provide for trained Health Science teachers	NDE	Completed
	Partner with CTE Teacher Professional Organizations to implement teacher recruitment programs	NDE/Prof. Organizations	In Progress
	Create mentoring programs and professional development to retain teachers through fifth year of teaching	NDE/ Perkins NCEI Foundation	In Progress
	Create a private industry incentive scholarship/loan forgiveness program directed to individuals who have been accepted into educator preparation programs in areas of career education shortage	NDE/NCEI Foundation	Future Work
	Create AQuESTT Quality Indicator to reward school districts that have fully certified and endorsed career education educators teaching in their endorsed areas.	NDE	NA
	Secure grant to NDE to establish CTE educator preparation centers at a State College and University campus to focus on CTE educator preparation and research on effective CTE teaching	NDE/NECI Foundation	Future Work

Quality Career Education Programs and Equity of Delivery

AQuESTT Tenant Impacted: College and Career Readiness

Promote quality career education programs throughout the state and develop models that assist with equity of career education program delivery

Issue: Nebraska does not currently have a quality rubric for schools to use in determining the quality of career education programs. There is significant disparity between districts in the quantity and quality of career education programs.

Opportunity	Solutions	Leadership	Timeline
Provide policy, legislative support and technical assistance to districts to maintain and expand quality career education programs that are delivered in an equitable manner across Nebraska	Microsoft IT Initiative was implemented this school year – setting national records in numbers of students receiving industry certifications in first year of availability – expansion in future years	NDE	Completed
	Rule 47 Career Academy application is open acknowledging the first ever NDE approved career academies	NDE	Completed
	NDE has partnered with Marzano Research Lab to conduct study of the states in REL Central to determine indicators of a quality career education program	NDE	Moved to ACTE
	New middle school career development curriculum, ENGAGE, will be rolled out this summer with professional development at the NCE Conference	NDE	Completed
	Revise career education standards and state model programs of study on a seven-year rotation	NDE	In Progress
	Formalize reVISION as a part of the school improvement process for Nebraska schools	NDE	Complete
	Develop a rubric of indicators of a quality career education program aligned with AQuESTT	NDE	Complete
	Strengthen inter-program cooperation between NCE, VR and Special Education, especially with transition	NDE	Complete
	Continue to provide grant funding for schools to implement reVISION Action Plans	NDE/ State of NE	Complete
	Provide incentive funding for quality career education and career academies	NDE/ State of NE	Future Work
	Identify viable industry certifications and dual credit opportunities for 11-12 grade NCE students	NDE	Future Work
	Expand career education opportunities for districts through virtual/blended delivery	NDE	Future Work
	Provide resources and professional development opportunities so schools can implement contextual teaching and learning experiences	NDE	Future Work

Career Readiness

AQuESTT Tenant Impacted: Transitions

Nebraska needs a systematic approach to develop career readiness skills in all students prior to graduation from secondary schools.

Issue: Career readiness must be infused throughout the curriculum in Nebraska schools. Models of integration are needed to demonstrate the ability to develop career readiness skills in all students. Nebraska does not currently have an assessment for career readiness.

Opportunity	Solutions	Leadership	Timeline
Provide policy, legislative support and technical assistance to districts to infuse career readiness and develop a model of career readiness assessment that could be implemented in Nebraska schools.	A definition of career readiness and career readiness standards have been adopted by the State Board of Education	NDE	Completed
	Career readiness standards have been infused into Nebraska’s new ELA and Math standards	NDE	Completed
	Habitudes, a curriculum built on Nebraska’s career readiness standards, and accompanying professional development has been implemented in Nebraska schools	NDE	Completed
	NDE has partnered with the NE Department of Labor and contractor to develop the rubrics for the career readiness standards. This rubric should provide the foundation for the development of a career readiness assessment process	NDE	Completed
	A career readiness toolkit has been developed that contains the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide for Infusion of career readiness standards into daily instruction. • Guide for Career Technical Student Organizations to reinforce career readiness standards. • Coaching guide to infuse career readiness standards into extracurricular activities. 	NDE	Finish in 2017
	Adopt a State Board policy regarding the implementation of curriculum, instruction and assessment program for career readiness	NDE	Future Work
	Include within Rule 10 quality indicators for the implementation of the Career Readiness Standards		Future Work
	Work with NDOL to provide a value-add for applicants with a career readiness assessment portfolio	NDE	Future Work
Review and modify as needed career readiness materials and assessments for students with disabilities and transitions	NDE	Completed	

Workplace Experiences

AQuESTT Tenant Impacted: Transitions

Create opportunities for meaningful workplace experiences for students.

Issue: Nebraska does not have a robust work-based learning system in place. One of the results of this situation is the lack of workplace experiences prior to securing a graduate's first employment. Meaningful workplace experiences have proven to have an impact on workplace success. Research done in the UK has documented the students who had four meaningful workplace experiences in high school or college resulted in an 18% increase in earnings after graduation.

Opportunities	Solutions	Leadership	Timeline
	Continue the process of rewriting the Nebraska Work-Based Learning Manual to provide guidance to schools on the implementation of work-based learning programs for students	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Collaborate with VR and Special Education in expanding work-based learning opportunities	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Continue the process of rewriting the Nebraska Work-Based Learning Manual to provide guidance to schools on the implementation of work-based learning programs for students	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Explore youth apprenticeship programs that are in place in Wisconsin, Virginia and Georgia among other states	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Participate in the Business and Labor Committee's LR 227 regarding youth apprenticeships and work-based learning	NDE	Completed
Develop a Nebraska work-based learning system	Consider a policy on workplace experiences as a part of a meaningful high school curriculum	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Partner with Nebraska Department of Labor and Department of Economic Development in securing employer input and engaging employers in participating work-based learning programs for high school students	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Consider a shared position with NDOL to facilitate youth apprenticeship and work-based learning for Nebraska schools	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Create model work-based learning programs in different sized Nebraska schools to document lesson learned and impact	NDE	Complete in 2017

Career Guidance

AQuESTT Tenant Impacted: Transitions

Nebraska school counselors continue to have full schedules with large quotas of students they serve. Career Guidance, while needing to be facilitated by the school counselor, cannot be the sole responsibility of the school counseling office.

Issue: Nebraska schools need a robust model of career guidance that starts at the elementary level and works through the transitions through high school. Need to ensure the continued operation of Nebraska Career Connections as a career information system for Nebraska Schools.

Solution	Underway/Completed	Leadership	Timeline
Develop a model of career counseling that is infused throughout the K-12 curriculum	Create a policy on K-12 career guidance that includes teachers, school counselors, administrators, community members, employers, etc.	NDE	Future Work
	Revise Career Readiness modules and continue to develop virtual tours	NDE	Complete in 2017
	Establish permanent funding for Nebraska Career Connections or another career information system	NDE NCEI Foundation	Complete in 2017
	Develop a teacher career advisor program and other strategies to improve career guidance	NDE	Future Work
	Develop new materials to assist schools in effective career guidance for all students	NDE	Future Work
	Engage employers in assisting with career guidance programs	NDE	Future Work