



Issues Update

April 27, 2017

Issues Update is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and presented on its website, www.kacteonline.org. As needed, *Issues Update* will report on state and federal Career and Technical Education (CTE) policy and legislative developments. KACTE and Stone can be reached at kmstone1951@gmail.com or 502-223-1823.

Healthcare Law Impacts on CTE in Kentucky

Repeal or significant changes to the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (otherwise known as Obamacare) could impact education programs in the states, including CTE. It is not well known that school districts receive funds via Medicaid reimbursements to provide student services primarily driven by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

In Kentucky, this is a substantial amount of money according to a report released by the Center for American Progress. Kentucky receives almost \$9.5 billion in federal Medicaid reimbursement, of which an estimated \$54 million goes to schools. Approximately 800 jobs for schools nurses, social workers, counselors and psychologists, physical therapists, and speech-language professionals are paid with Medicaid funds. Kentucky has an estimated 560,943 children receiving Medicaid benefits.

If there are budget cuts resulting from changes to or elimination of the Affordable Care Act as proposed to Congress in March (and defeated), Kentucky would lose more than \$10 million in funding that goes to schools according to the Center for American Progress. This is a potential impact on education not mentioned in the debate to repeal and/or replace the Affordable Care Act.

MEANWHILE, CONGRESS must address appropriations for Fiscal Year 2017. A continuing resolution funding the federal government will expire on April 28. In addition, Congress must extend the debt limit. Without action on either item, the federal government could be closed.

The current continuing resolution cut funds for the *Carl D Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* slightly, but small states like Kentucky were unaffected. It is hoped the cuts will be restored when a final continuing resolution for Fiscal Year 2017 is adopted.

The Value of CTE

Advance CTE, the trade association of state directors for Career and Technical Education, recently released the results of a national survey of parents and students to determine the perception of CTE. The key findings support the programs and offer suggestions.

- CTE students and parents are more satisfied with their educational experience compared to those not involved in CTE.
- Parents and students want careers about which they can be passionate. Nearly all parents and students aspire for college.
- Parents and students like the real-world skill education available through CTE.
- CTE is not well known generally among parents, students and the general public.
- CTE needs students, parents, and others to be public advocates, serving as trusted sources of information on CTE.

Kentucky State Board of Education

At its meeting on April 12, the Kentucky State Board of Education adopted the Fiscal Year 2017 (July 1-June 30) *Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act* state plan. The plan supports distribution and use of federal appropriations for CTE programs in Kentucky. The state will receive \$17.9 million in federal funds, with 85 percent distributed to local education (54 percent secondary, 46 percent postsecondary). Ten percent will be used for state leadership, and 5 percent will be used for state administration.

The proposed accountability measures are, secondary level, academic attainment in reading (54.26 percent) and math (37.5), technical skills attainment (72.5), schools completion (99.5), graduation rates (98), placement (85), nontraditional participation (36), and nontraditional completion (16); and postsecondary level, technical skill attainment (74), credential/certificate/degree (74), student retention or transfer (88), student placement (76), nontraditional participation (26), and nontraditional completion (13).

The Board is beginning formulation of the 2018-20 biennial budget request for the Department of Education to the Kentucky General Assembly. The initial staff presentation will be in June. Discussion will follow in August. Vote on approval will take place in October.

Please watch for future *Issues Updates* for reports on this and other CTE legislative and policy developments.