

## 2423.01 - CAREER AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

The Florida statutes require each district school board to develop a five (5) year strategic plan that meets local and regional work force demands through the establishment of at least one (1) Career and Professional Academy. The strategic plan shall be developed in collaboration with local workforce boards and postsecondary institutions approved to operate in Florida.

The Board expects career and professional academies offered in the District to provide rigorous and relevant career-themed courses that articulate to postsecondary-level coursework and provide students with the opportunity to receive a standard high school diploma, the opportunity to earn industry certification, the opportunity to attain the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award, and the opportunity to earn postsecondary credit.

The Board encourages the Superintendent to forge partnerships with local businesses in the development of career and professional academies. These partnerships will help prepare students for the State's workforce needs, as well as help attract, expand, and retain targeted, high-value industry and jobs in the community.

A Florida Ready to Work Credential and portfolio will be awarded to students upon successful completion of the instruction. Each portfolio must delineate the skills demonstrated by the student as evidenced by the student's preparation for employment. A student shall also be awarded a Florida Ready to Work Credential who successfully passes assessments in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information or any other assessments of comparable rigor. Each assessment is scored on a scale of three (3) to seven (7) and a student receives a level of credential based on the score they receive. A bronze-level credential requires a minimum score of three (3) or above on each of the assessments, a silver-level credential requires a minimum score of four (4) or above on each of the assessments, and a gold-level credential requires a minimum score of five (5) or above on each of the assessments.

The District's career and professional academies should increase student academic achievement and graduation rates through integrated academic and career curricular. The District's existing career education courses may serve as a foundation for the creation of an academy. Each career and professional academy must:

- A. provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum;  
  
The curriculum must take into consideration multiple styles of student learning; promote learning by doing through application and adaptation; maximize relevance of the subject matter; enhance each student's capacity to excel; and include an emphasis on work habits and work ethics.
- B. include one (1) or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions, businesses, industry, employers, economic development organizations, or other appropriate partners from the local community;  
  
Such partnerships shall be delineated in articulation agreements to provide for career-based courses that earn postsecondary credit.
- C. provide, shared, maximum use of private-sector facilities and personnel;
- D. provide personalized student advertisement, including a parent participation component, and coordination with middle schools to promote and support career exploration and education planning;
- E. promote and provide opportunities for career and professional academy students to maintain, at a minimum, the Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars award;
- F. provide instruction in career designated as high growth, high demand, and high pay by the local workforce development board, the chamber of commerce, or the Agency for Workforce Innovation;
- G. deliver academic content through instruction to the career, including intensive reading and mathematics intervention with an emphasis on strengthening reading for information skills;

- H. offer applied courses that combine academic content with technical skills;
- I. provide instruction resulting in competency, certification, or credentials in workplace skills, including, but not limited to, communication skills, interpersonal skills, decision making skills, the importance of attendance and timelines in the work environment, and work ethics;
- J. provide opportunities for students to obtain the Florida Ready to Work Certification;
- K. include an evaluation plan developed jointly with the Department of Education and the local workforce board;
- L. include a plan to sustain career and professional academies;
- M. redirect appropriated career funding to career and professional academies.

An adult student who is enrolled in an apprenticeship program that is registered with the Department of Education in accordance with F.S. Chapter 446, Job Training, is exempt from the provisions of F.S. 1004.91 relating to career preparatory instruction.

F.S. 446 et seq., 1003.4156, 1003.428, 1003.491, 1003.492, 1003.493, 1004.91  
F.S. 1004.99, 1009.536