



RESPONSE BRIEF

COMPELLING QUESTIONS

What mechanism is in place to insure coordination of programs and services for career and technical education within the “draft” reorganization chart?

RESPONSE: Moving forward with development and delivery of career and technical education requires that comprehensive high schools, career and technical education facilities and postsecondary institutions work cooperatively to develop seamless transitions for students from middle school through completion of at least one year of postsecondary training/education. We cannot discount the availability of services within the DESE when it comes to building and maintaining these relationships.

We believe strongly that career and technical education facilities will need to know where they will turn to have their questions answered. In fact, the types and numbers of questions we respond to from comprehensive high schools and local school districts requires that we are prepared and receive timely assistance to help our secondary and postsecondary partners.

Who will serve as the State of Missouri’s ‘point person’/State Director for career and technical education, as required by the federal government, within the “draft” reorganization chart?

RESPONSE: We are aware of, and fully support, the need to establish a “State Director of Career Education” as required by the Perkins Act of 2006. Title and placement within the organizational chart are not as relevant as the presence of this person within the state. We strongly believe that the absence of this position will significantly hinder Missouri’s ability to remain a leader in career and technical education. It will also disrupt the understanding that career and technical education has related to issues within other departments and divisions of the DESE.

What role will Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) have in the “draft” reorganization chart?

RESPONSE: The absence of CTSOs from the reorganization chart is alarming! CTSOs provide interscholastic opportunity that the Missouri State High School Activities Association provides to extracurricular opportunities for Missouri’s students; however, CTSOs offer the added bonus of the activities being co-curricular. In addition, student involvement in the local high school experience is enhanced via involvement in CTSOs. Finally, students are clearly challenged to meet the expectations of college and career readiness through the activities of the local, state and national CTSOs.

It is for this very reason that the career and technical educators of the state of Missouri fought to remove the ‘optional’ language related to CTSOs from the MSIP Cycle V language. The importance of CTSOs to career and technical education is comparable to the

relationship of a student's success on the ACT with success in college. Over and over again we see, and hear, about the impact CTSOs had on the successful development of a student in preparation for a career and/or college entrance.

Where will statewide coordination, and national representation, of Missouri's CTSOs fit within the reorganization chart?

RESPONSE: Statewide coordination and national representation of Missouri's CTSOs would be impossible for career and technical education facilities under the current parameters. There is money available to take students to state interscholastic athletic championships, but participation in CTSOs national competitions are at the mercy of the student, local organization and facility to engage in effective fundraising. Annually, career and technical education facilities are required to fully fund raise for students to participate in these competitions. Advisors, or sponsors, are required to work additional hours without compensation because stipends are minimal for CTSO staff leaders and funds are not available to send advisors and students to competitions without sacrifice of another program, or service.

The programming and services provided by the state for CTSOs has insured that our students are capable of participating. If this were to cease, the presence of CTSOs within career and technical education facilities would be in jeopardy. It is imperative that this oversight be corrected in order to provide this valuable service to students, business and industry, parents and our communities.

Will these questions be thoroughly be researched, analyzed and answers organized for implementation prior to the implementation of the reorganization chart?

RESPONSE: We are appreciative of the Commissioner of Education's willingness to hear and receive feedback on the "draft" reorganization chart for the DESE. We recognize that there are many more aspects of the DESE than career and technical education. We respect the plan for reorganization; however, we believe that the impact on career and technical education, as related to these questions, needs to be researched, analyzed, and responses communicated prior to the implementation of the "draft" reorganization chart for the DESE.

REQUEST

Commissioner of Education establishment of a voluntary work group to study these questions and provide recommendations prior to full-implementation of the reorganization chart for DESE.

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