



Issues Update

May 8, 2024

Issues Update is a report from the Kentucky Association for Career and Technical Education (KACTE) written by Executive Director Michael R. Stone and shared with members. 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.

Several Measures Show CTE's Achievements

KACTE's legislative advocacy priorities for the 2024 Kentucky General Assembly session were: urge passage of legislation codifying a Career and Technical Education (CTE) funding model, request funding for CTE facility maintenance and construction, support increased teacher compensation, and push for teacher recruitment and retention initiatives.

KACTE's Advocacy Committee Chair Michael Miller, Administrative Consultant, Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE), deemed the association's efforts a success. With the assistance of KACTE's contract Legislative Agent, McCarthy Strategic Solutions, represented by Jeff Busick, each of the association's priorities achieved some measure of success. (Please see *Issues Update* April 24, 2024, posted in the Issues Section of www.kyacte.org for more details.)

- **HB499** codified the funding distribution method of the record CTE funding established in the 2022-24 budget that was maintained in the 2024-26 budget.
- **HB6**, the Executive Branch budget bill, included funding for Area Technology Center facility maintenance and construction.
- **HB6** increased SEEK funding, which the legislative majority believed allowed for increased teacher compensation, but left the determination of raises to the local districts.
- Although there was no comprehensive teacher recruitment and retention legislation, **SB265** modified alternative teacher certification, and **HB377** established a teacher loan forgiveness program that can aid recruitment.

KACTE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Michael R. Stone represented the association at the May 2 meeting of the CTE State Advisory Committee. In her review of the 2024 General Assembly session, OCTE Executive Adviser Regan Satterwhite complimented KACTE for its advocacy efforts.

At the meeting, Interim Commissioner of Education Robin Kinney reported Dr. Robbie Fletcher, currently Lawrence County superintendent, will be the new Commissioner of Education on July 1.

Kinney highlighted the Kentucky United to Learn effort. She said it is pushing for vibrant learning experiences that engage the community. She said there is a lot to learn from CTE.

Representatives of the Youth Participation Action Research project reported on the initial research being

CTE in Kentucky

Several measures indicate the success of Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Kentucky. This data can be used to promote CTE with local officials, business and industry, and the general community. The data come from the 2021-22 school year.

- 176,410 secondary CTE participants.
- 32,411 postsecondary CTE participants.
- Almost 17,000 CTE concentrators graduated with a recognized postsecondary credential.
- 37,105 CTE students earned postsecondary credentials.
- 58 percent of Kentucky jobs require skill training — more than high school but less than a 4-year degree; and 48 percent of Kentucky workers are trained to this level.
- 99.7 percent graduation rate for CTE concentrators 4-year cohort; graduation rate for all students is 90.1 percent.

conducted in Fayette County. The project is a collaboration between the Kentucky Student Voice Team and Advance CTE. It will strive to tackle CTE policy and affect change with policy recommendations, course development, certification, preparation for life, integration of academics, and peer-teacher-student support.

Associate Commissioner Beth Hargis noted eight out of 10 public school secondary students participated in CTE, which is an 11 percent increase. She said 24,517 students earned dual credit last year.

Tom Thompson, Director, Division of Student Transition and Career Readiness, said Kentucky received a \$600,000 grant for a national pilot with the U.S. Army to enhance JROTC. The grant will fund six staff positions.

He reported 30,441 sat for the end of program test, and 17,981 passed, a rate of 59 percent and a 3 percent increase over the previous year. The new Perkins State Plan was submitted and approved. The Perkins Act funding split is 62 percent secondary and 38 percent postsecondary. Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) membership is