

# **High School Career and Technical Education**

## ***Serving Pennsylvania's Student and Workforce Needs***

**A February 2016 Report from  
The Education Policy and Leadership Center**

**Presented to PACTA Summer Conference**

**Ron Cowell  
July 27, 2016**

# Introduction to Report

- **EPLC project started in 2014**
- **Report released 2/10/16 at PACTA Symposium**
- **Cooperation and input for 30+ member Study Group**
- **Several site visits & community forums**
- **Thanks to PACTA and members**

# The Recommendations

- **43 actionable recommendations – something for everyone to do**
- **Specific about “who” should do “what”**
- **Use policy levers and build on current requirements/policies where practical**
- **Intended to prompt discussion and action**
- **Focused on the interest of students**

# Organized Around 7 Broad Topics

- **Leadership and Governance**
- **Regional & Local Coordination**
- **Student & Parent Awareness**
- **Relevancy and Rigor**
- **Assuring CTE Opportunities for All Students**
- **Accountability for Effectiveness**
- **State Funding**

# Summary of Findings

- **High School CTE takes many forms**
- **High School CTE needs to be an integral and strategic part of workforce development planning at the state and local level**
- **Many positive and exciting changes are occurring**
- **But progress is not happening everywhere**
- **Not all students have access to high quality, job- and career-relevant CTE opportunities**
- **Key issues are image, leadership, and funding**

# 43 Recommendations to Various Audiences

- **Governor & Legislature**
- **State Board of Education & PDE**
- **Dept. of Labor & Industry**
- **State & Local Workforce Development Boards**
- **Boards of School Districts & CTC's**
- **Intermediate Units**
- **Superintendents, Principals, Counselors**
- **Business Groups & Employers**
- **Postsecondary education institutions**

# Leadership & Governance

- **Leadership is essential**
- **Role of Governor**
- **Need CTE Perspective on SBE & State WDB**
- **State Planning for CTE**
- **Leadership in school districts**
- **Regional/local CTE leadership comes from different sources – IU, CTC, school district, community college, business/workforce development**
- **Desire for more employers on governing boards**

# Regional & Local Coordination

- **Regional/local coordination is a must to maximize opportunities for students and get best use of resources and future investments**
- **Use conditions to funding from state**
- **Role of local WDBs**
- **Need to assure educators are at the table**
- **Business-Education Partnerships**



# Information to Students & Parents

- **CTE Image problem about value and options**
- **Problem includes students, parents and educators as well**
- **Need a Public-Private Statewide Campaign**
- **Better information – and start earlier – middle school orientation and visits**
- **School and career counselors**
- **PDE counselor position**
- **Pathways information**
- **Professional development about CTE**
- **One-stop info shop in PDE**

# Relevancy and Rigor

- **Current expectation of state tests**
- **Modern, high quality, rigorous CTE not everywhere**
- **Mismatch of programs and jobs**
- **Need more info about effective CTE programs**
- **Role of Board and PDE to review, etc.**
- **Industry related certifications**

# CTE Opportunities - All Students

- **Uneven opportunities across 500 districts**
- **Requirements of Career Ed & Work standards**
- **Comprehensive planning/commitment to pathways**
- **Student access to currently non-available programs**
- **Cooperation on programs, faculty, facilities**
- **Dual enrollment opportunities**
- **Articulation agreements**
- **Educator preparation programs**
- **Professional development about CTE**
- **On-line professional development at PDE**
- **Employers & real workplace experiences**
- **Background checks**

# Accountability

- **Student competencies**
- **Changes to SPP to recognize CTE**
- **Better data**
- **Districts accountable for:**
  - ✓ **Strategic planning**
  - ✓ **Career Education and Work standards**
  - ✓ **8<sup>th</sup> grade career plan**
  - ✓ **Professional development**

# State Funding Recommendations

- **Fix K-12 Funding System – worst in the nation**
- **Basic Ed Formula**
- **Provide more state funding for CTE**
- **More & predictable state support for equipment grants**
- **More state support for school counselors**
- **Expand the EITC tax credit program**

# **Challenge Policymakers to Use All Policy Levers Available to Support CTE**

**Bully-pulpit**

**Convener**

**Appointing Authority**

**Statutes**

**Regulations**

**Planning**

**Funding**

**Conditions Attached to State Funding**

# Dissemination of Report

- **PACTA**
- **School Counselors**
- **State Board of Education**
- **State Workforce Development Board**
- **Regional Forum at AIU3 in Western PA**
- **Sent to district and CTC superintendents and executives, board presidents, IU executives, and state policymakers.**

# Continuing Next Steps

- **Raise profile of CTE at every opportunity**
- **Your discussions this week**
- **Distribute to more stakeholders**
- **Present to more state policymakers**
- **Upcoming report of House Select Subcommittee**
- **Education Summit in September**
- **PCEA and local WDB's conferences**
- **Available to present to additional audiences**
- **Regional community forums – HBG and Southeast PA during September-November**
- **Media visits**
- **Other ideas?**
- **Your role**



# More Information & Your Suggestions

Download free copy of report and find this presentation on EPLC website at [www.eplc.org](http://www.eplc.org)

**Ron Cowell**  
**717-260-9900**  
**cowell@eplc.org**  
**@RonaldCowellPA**

**The Education Policy and Leadership Center**  
**800 North Third Street, Suite 408**  
**Harrisburg, PA 17102**  
**www.eplc.org**  
**@eplc\_education**