



Talking Points

CTE Redesign/House File 2392

[House File 2392](#), signed into law May 26, will raise the quality of secondary career and technical education programs statewide, will better prepare students for success beyond high school, will help Iowa meet the needs of employers, and, and sets a new vision for students in Iowa to graduate ready for college or career training and jobs.

The legislation builds upon the [recommendations](#) (see graphic on Page 3) released this fall 2015 by the Secondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Task Force, and marks the first major revision to secondary CTE policy in Iowa since 1989.

The CTE redesign does many things, but boils down to these areas:

- Raises the quality of CTE programs and encourages alignment of secondary CTE offerings to in-demand occupations to meet the needs of employers.
- Raises awareness of opportunities aligned to a student's interests through career guidance, exploratory CTE coursework, and work-based learning opportunities.
- Improves access to high-quality CTE through a statewide system of regional planning partnerships to assist school districts in providing an effective, efficient, and economical means of delivering programs.

The secondary CTE redesign initiative, which focuses on middle and high school students, is in line with the Future Ready Iowa initiative launched by Gov. Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds this last fall. The initiative focuses on ways to continue building Iowa's talent pipeline and close the skills gap so that more Iowans have quality career opportunities and employers have the skilled workforce they need. This legislation will help achieve the Future Ready Iowa goal that 70 percent of Iowans in the workforce have education and training beyond high school by 2025.

What is in the CTE Redesign Legislation?

The bill contains two divisions; division I focuses on career and academic plans and division II on career and technical education and work-based learning programs. Division I proposes changes to Iowa Code chapter 279, section 61 which aims to help students identify college and career goals and the coursework and activities which will assist students in achieving those goals.

The legislation authorizes the State Board of Education to adopt standards for division I through administrative rule, which now have been approved at the June 11, 2016 board meeting. These rules include standards for vendor-provided career information and decision-making. Additionally, the department has developed an application process for vendors of career information and decision-making systems to seek approval for inclusion on a list of approved vendors from



which school districts may choose. Also, the rules addresses the ways in which school districts have to develop a district plan as a roadmap for the implementation of the career and academic planning process outlined in statute.

Division II revises several sections of Iowa Code, primarily chapter 258 – Vocational Education, but also chapter 256 – Department of Education, 260C – Community Colleges, and 261E – Senior Year Plus Program. The six CTE services areas are maintained, but revised to align with the national Career Clusters® framework. The service areas will include agriculture, food, and natural resources; arts, communications, and information systems; applied sciences, technology, engineering, and manufacturing, including transportation, distribution, logistics, architecture, and construction; health sciences; human services; and business, finance, marketing, and management.

Much of chapter 258 is modified to align with Secondary CTE Task Force recommendations. This includes repurposing of a long-dormant concept of regional partnerships, which going forward will be referred to as Regional Career and Technical Education Planning Partnerships. These partnerships will consist of districts, community colleges, business and industry, and other community stakeholders and will assist in providing for the effective, efficient, and economical delivery of high-quality secondary CTE programming. State vocational education reimbursement funds will be reassigned to regional planning partnerships, to be expended on costs associated with operating the partnerships and other allowable uses.

Establishing the Rules and Timelines

DE has up to 180 days to draft rules for the career and technical education and work-based learning programs outlined in Division II. Authority is granted to the State Board of Education and director of the Department of Education (DE) to establish standards for CTE service areas, regional CTE Planning Partnerships, career academies and regional centers, and authorizes the director to facilitate the process established by state board for establishing regional planning partnerships.

Plans are currently underway to schedule listening sessions in late July 2016 to seek input from educators, administrators, and other stakeholders in the development of the proposed rules. At the same time, within the DE, work groups are being formed to identify those parts of the legislation about which input from the field will helpful for crafting the rules. The expectation is that the identified areas would become the basis of a structured conversation during the listening sessions.

The feedback received from the listening sessions would then be used as by the DE to begin framing the rules. To help in this process, key informants from different stakeholder groups will be added to help DE workgroups firm up the rules. The first set of draft rules will be completed in late August 2016 and be made available throughout September 2016. Based on the public comments received, a second set of draft rules will be completed and presented to senior DE staff. The rules for Division II is anticipated to be final at the end of October 2016. They will be presented to the State Board of Education in November 2016.

