

UNIT OF STUDY REQUIREMENTS FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE MIDDLE LEVEL

MAY 2017 BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

What Happened?

The Board of Regents met on May 9, 2017 and voted to adopt, through emergency action, the recommendations detailed in the item, “Unit of Study Requirements for Career and Technical Education in Grades 7 and 8.”

The Board’s vote enabled a change in the middle level regulation language that governs Career and Technical Education (CTE).

What is CTE?

“Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a kindergarten through adult area of study that includes rigorous academic content closely aligned with career and technical subjects... The CDOS Learning Standards serve as the framework for CTE.” -CR 100.1(l)

The Career and Technical Education content areas are: Technology Education, Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS), Agriculture, Business Education, Trade and Technical, and Health Sciences Occupations.

Prior to this vote, CTE was represented in CR 100.4 through 1 unit of technology education and $\frac{3}{4}$ unit of Home and Career Skills (intermediate FACS). Under the new language, CR 100.4 represents CTE in the middle level through “1 $\frac{3}{4}$ unit career and technical education.”

Why Take This Action?

The Board’s action was taken to address concerns voiced by superintendents of schools to senior NYSED leadership around:

- finding Technology and FACS teachers to fill open positions; and
- scheduling two discrete CTE courses in prescribed units of study; and
- providing middle-level students with broad-based CTE learning experiences.

The emergency action allows districts with 2017-18 job openings for technology teachers or for FACS teachers to look to the expanded pool of all CTE certified teachers for recruitment into open positions. This option is available for all schools beginning in 2018-19 assuming the Board continues its approval.

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Who qualifies as a CTE teacher?

Any teacher certified in the six CTE areas:

- Technology Education, Business Education—K-12 Classroom titles
- FACS, Agriculture- K-12 Classroom Titles and CTE titles
- Trade/Technical, Health Sciences – CTE titles

What will the 1 ¾ unit of middle-level CTE look like?

Local school districts will determine the best delivery model for high-quality middle-level CTE instruction:

- Districts that have effective FACS and Technology Education programs could continue to meet the unit of study requirements in the traditional manner.
- Districts that wish to explore new ways can do so by creating articulated programs that align to available CTE, STEM, or CDOS pathways at the high school.
- Districts can address the intermediate standards and, when available, provide accelerated CTE instruction for students in grade 8

What are the Next Steps?

Work is underway, led by members of the CTE professional associations and supported by NYSED and the CTE Technical Assistance Center, to create a foundational course called “Introduction to CTE.” Introduction to CTE will:

- bridge middle level CTE to high school CTE; and
- expose students to all CTE content areas; and
- follow a module format allowing for flexibility in delivery; and
- foster acceleration into graduation pathways (CTE, STEM, CDOS) that capitalize on students’ interest.

Draft theme and content modules developed by the FACS Association are serving as models for further development by the Business, Technology, Agriculture, Health Sciences, and Trade and Technical education communities.

What is the Timeline?

The emergency rule is effective July 1, 2017. A 45-day public comment period follows. The Board of Regents will revisit this action at their September meeting, and if adopted, the regulation change will become a permanent rule on September 27, 2017.

Questions?

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