California Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee

cwpjac-sept21item02

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# California Workforce PathwaysJoint Advisory CommitteeSeptember 29, 2021Agenda Item 02

Posted by the California Department of Education

## Subject

This is the first of two Study Sessions on the California State Plan for Career Technical Education led by Jobs for the Future staff.

## Type of Action

Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

The California State Team (CAST), consisting of core leadership of the State Board of Education (SBE), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO) was formed in October 2019 to oversee the development of the comprehensive California State Plan for Career Technical Education (CTE). At the July 2020 California Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee (CWPJAC) meeting, the CAST presented a recommended approach to create a Strategic Plan/Call to Action in the development of the California State Plan for CTE.

At the September 2020 meeting, the CAST provided an update regarding the framing of the State Plan using a Call to Action approach, as outlined in the Brief History of Key Issues below.

The CAST discussions have centered on developing: (a) specific strategic areas of focus; (b) expertise required to assist with providing necessary bandwidth to accomplish the work; and (c) a detailed scope of work. Upon advice and guidance from CWPJAC members on the more detailed scope of work, the CAST team will begin the process of developing a draft outline of a forward-looking document that becomes California’s Strategic Plan/Call to Action for CTE. Now that a fully executed contract with Jobs for the Future (JFF) has been secured, preparations are underway to embark on the first phase of the project. The first phase of the development process included a planning session with the CWPJAC at its August 6 meeting to receive guidance and recommendations on JFF’s recommended approach of hosting study sessions, as well as focus groups to gather input from various stakeholders and practitioners, both of which will be conducted virtually.

## Recommendation

The CDE and the CCCCO staff recommend that the CWPJAC continue to provide feedback and guidance during JFF led study sessions on the input that JFF will seek from the stakeholders in the focus groups for the development of the California State Plan for CTE.

## Brief History of Key Issues

**Approach and Areas of Focus**

This study session will review and discuss the evolving economy and increasing digitization of jobs that has occurred and its impact to education and workforce systems, and structures necessary for the education sector in order to be responsive to the changing needs of employers and students’ career goals. The session will include speakers from inside and outside of California and will share lessons learned, insights, and ideas for consideration to inform the California context as the state develops and implements the State Plan for CTE.

The broad intent of the Strategic Plan/Call to Action approach for the California State Plan for CTE is to provide cohesion and direction to the current state, regional, and local level work through visionary and innovative approaches that are relevant for stakeholders, and particularly for students and employers as the system’s ultimate benefactors. The goal of the Strategic Plan/Call to Action is to lay out the State’s future vision for CTE, both in the short-term (i.e., in next five years) and long-term (i.e., in ten years), using creative strategies while preserving intentionality of California’s student-centered approach and the California Way.

In the immediate term, the Strategic Plan/Call to Action will also address lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in order to build from our collective experiences and knowledge for the benefit of student learning and skills obtainment, and to tie them into efforts shared from Future of Work initiative and future employability. During this time, career pathway programs have become more critical for helping to stabilize the economy and enable employers to hire workers with skills they need.

In the development of the State Plan for CTE, the scope of work has been organized into four key areas with equity and access being foundational threads throughout:

* Workforce supply that meets demand (industry interactions and partnerships, in-demand skills and clusters, etc.)
* Delivery (competency-based education, CTE online, experiential/work-based learning, apprenticeship, adult education, curriculum, etc.)
* Data that informs the investments (common outcomes, aligned data systems that captures cradle to career, etc.)
* Systems alignment (dual enrollment, teacher prep, teacher credentialing, career pathways, etc.)

The following cross cutting themes will further support the key areas above:

* Career Pathways
* Dual Enrollment
* Regional Partnership Development
* CTE Teacher and Faculty Preparation Pipeline
* Work-based Learning

**Sources of Inspiration**

The CWPJAC’s *Guiding Policy Principles to Support Student-Centered K–14+ Pathways* and the 12 Essential Elements of a High-Quality College and Career Pathway are foundational to guide a student-centered approach. They feature topics such as online education; competency-based education; credential transparency; and facilitation of education and workforce transitions (from elementary to middle to high school to all segments of postsecondary education and training). Because students come with a diverse set of knowledge, skills, and abilities, the system must be ready to meet them at their level. Exploring these and other topics will set the stage for a forward-looking Strategic Plan/Call to Action that becomes the California State Plan for CTE.

A comprehensive California State Plan for CTE should be grounded within the larger context of state education and workforce development priorities and initiatives, as exemplified in the work surrounding the Future of Work and its focus on high road employment and training opportunities to create high quality jobs, use a job quality index as a way to intentionally address economic inequities and lift communities up, and to build on worker demands. More information on the Future of Work Commission is available on their web page at <https://www.labor.ca.gov/labor-and-workforce-development-agency/fowc/>.

Additional important resources are the citations within the Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act(Perkins V) State Plan, as well as input provided by stakeholders and public comment that are intended to be considered in the development of a California State Plan for CTE. These include:

* Continuing to align Perkins V accountability indicators to current state measures, and data collection methodology.
* Refining the definition of size, scope, and quality to consider the many variations that exist within kindergarten through grade twelve local educational agencies and community colleges across California.
* Strengthening inter-segmental and inter-sectoral connections.
* Exploring options for teacher and faculty preparation, including considering how industry experience can support and strengthen college and career pathways, in partnership with staff of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing as the options relate to preparing kindergarten through grade twelve educators.
* Addressing barriers and strategies to increase dual/concurrent enrollment opportunities.
* Considering ways to promote work-based learning within high-quality college and career pathways across diverse communities in California.

Even before the development of the federal Perkins V State Plan, the above list had been under discussion for several years through the development of high-quality CTE programming, and funded through state and federal funding sources. A goal of the Strategic Plan/Call to Action for CTE is to signal priority areas and efforts to achieve greater alignment and outcomes to the field.

**Scope of Work Outline in Developing the California State Plan for CTE**

More recent discussion among the CAST has centered on how best to focus the scope of work in a manner that is both innovative and practical, where action can be taken in the field through an implementation plan to advance the goals of transforming CTE programs. A contract with JFF has been executed to assist with conducting the next phase of the work to be completed, including project management.

## Summary of Previous California Workforce Pathways Joint Advisory Committee Discussion(s) and Action(s)

**August 6, 2021:** JFF presented the Project Overview (review of the project timeline, including key milestones and decision points for the CWPJAC), Focus Groups (review the proposed structure and list of stakeholder groups to be included in the focus groups to solicit stakeholder feedback for the State Plan for CTE), and the Study Sessions (provide an overview of the proposed topics for the study sessions for CWPJAC members to be held at the September and November 2021 meetings).

**May 14, 2021:** The CAST presented a revised project outline and timeline for the scope of work to be undertaken based on feedback received from the CWPJAC members at the January 2021 meeting.

**January 29, 2021:** The CAST presented an outline and projected timeline forthe scope of work to be undertaken, that included an implementation phase through 2023 to facilitate the adoption of the State Plan by the field once the State Plan has been finalized and approved by the CWPJAC.

**September 25, 2020:** The CAST presenteda framework for organization the approach and development of the State Plan/Call to Action into four key areas that encompasses the broad work under development.

**July 10, 2020:** The CAST presented a Strategic Plan/Call to Action approach to completing the California State Plan for CTE as a set of inter-related steps that require reviewing public and non-public documentation, as well as interaction with a wide swathe of stakeholders.

**November 25, 2019:** The CWPJAC discussed the development of a comprehensive California State Plan for CTE, along with an extended timeline beyond the Federal Perkins V State Plan submission to the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The CWPJAC advised staff to continue work on developing the comprehensive California State Plan for CTE.

**October 11, 2019:** The CWPJAC reviewed, discussed, and provided initial input to a preliminary draft of the California State Plan for CTE. The CWPJAC directed staff to focus on the Federal Perkins V State Plan and present a draft federal application to the CWPJAC at its November 2019 meeting. The CWPJAC also reviewed and discussed an updated draft timeline of completed and future meetings for completing the Federal Perkins V State Plan.

**September 13, 2019:** The CWPJAC reviewed a preliminary draft of the revisions to California’s State Plan for CTE, as well as an updated draft timeline.

**July 12, 2019:** The SBE, CCCCO, and CDE staff together updated the draft timeline and planned activities for completing the revisions to California’s State Plan for CTE.

**May 29, 2019:** The SBE, CCCCO, and CDE staff together introduced a draft timeline and planned activities for revising California’s State Plan for CTE.

**March 12, 2008:** On March 12, 2008, the SBE unanimously approved the *2008–2012 California State Plan for Career Technical Education*, as required by the Perkins IV, which had been previously approved by the Board of Governors on March 3, 2008. The Perkins IV State Plan was subsequently approved by the ED on July 1, 2008.

## Attachment(s)

**Attachment 1**: Jobs for the Future Study Session Agenda (3 pages)