

## FLPTA RESOLUTION (2019)

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### Resolution on Career and Technical Education

WHEREAS, Florida's fastest growing occupations require career and technical education<sup>[1]</sup>; and career and technical education programs, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, therefore pave the way for both K-12 students and post-secondary students to launch stable, successful, careers, and achieve economic self-sufficiency in a wide variety of fields<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education courses, which contain rigorous academic curriculum and performance standards, may be designated Level 3, the same as honors courses, in Florida's secondary schools<sup>[5]</sup>; and while both enrollment in K-12 career preparatory programs and students graduating from high school with an industry certification have increased in recent years<sup>[6][7]</sup>, without further growth, Florida is projected to fall short of its future workforce needs<sup>[8][9]</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 95% of career and technical education students graduate high school, which is 10% higher than average<sup>[10]</sup>; and 78% of career and technical education graduates enroll in post-secondary education full-time<sup>[11]</sup>; and 81% of high school dropouts say real-world skills education would have kept them in school<sup>[12]</sup>; and

WHEREAS, On July 26, 2018 the United States President signed into law the reauthorization of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 2006<sup>[13]</sup>; and Perkins funding can cover up to 100% of career and technical education costs, including digital curriculum, thereby reducing student debt<sup>[14]</sup>; and taxpayer returns on investment and economic benefits are high<sup>[15]</sup>; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA provides information to its members and others regarding recent changes in the scope and nature of career and technical education programs, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, authorized by the Florida Department of Education or other authorizing institution designated by statute; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA provides information to its members and others with respect to the benefits of career and technical education for students at all levels of academic achievement, as well as for the general public; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Florida PTA urges the Florida Legislature and the United States Congress to increase funding for career and technical education programs, including registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, to provide for appropriate market-driven compensation for career and technical education instructors, flexibility in the expansion of career and technical education pathways, and recruitment of a diverse population of program enrollees so that all of Florida's residents will have the opportunity to access, fully participate in, and contribute to the state's economic prosperity.

Source data

- [1] Florida Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, CTE Learning that Works for Florida. <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5652/urlt/CTE-brochure-online.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [2] House of Representatives Staff Analysis, Bill # PCB PKI 19-01 Career Education, p.2, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&Committeeld=3017&Session=2019&DocumentType=proposed%20committee%20bill%20analyses&FileName=pcb01.PKI.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [3] Section 1004.92(1), F.S.
- [4] Florida Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/career-tech-edu/> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [5] Florida Department of Education, Career and Technical Education, CTE Learning that Works for Florida. <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/5652/urlt/CTE-brochure-online.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [6] House of Representatives Staff Analysis, Bill # PCB PKI 19-01 Career Education, pp. 2-3, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&Committeeld=3017&Session=2019&DocumentType=proposed%20committee%20bill%20analyses&FileName=pcb01.PKI.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [7] Email from Jared Ochs, Director of Government Relations, Florida Department of Education, Industry Certification, (Feb. 26, 2019), cited in House of Representatives Staff Analysis, Bill # PCB PKI 19-01 Career Education, pp. 2-3, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&Committeeld=3017&Session=2019&DocumentType=proposed%20committee%20bill%20analyses&FileName=pcb01.PKI.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [8] House of Representatives Staff Analysis, Bill # PCB PKI 19-01 Career Education, pp. 2-3, available at <https://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Documents/loaddoc.aspx?PublicationType=Committees&Committeeld=3017&Session=2019&DocumentType=proposed%20committee%20bill%20analyses&FileName=pcb01.PKI.pdf> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [9] Department of Economic Opportunity. Florida's Strategic Plan for Economic Development (August 2018), available at <http://www.floridajobs.org/docs/default-source/division-of-strategic-business-development/fl5yrplan/fl-strategic-plan-booklet2.pdf?sfvrsn=6> (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [10] Career and Technical Education & Student Achievement, [https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE\\_Student\\_Achievement\\_2018.pdf](https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE_Student_Achievement_2018.pdf) (accessed March 6, 2019)
- [11] Career and Technical Education: Myths and Facts, [https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE\\_Myths\\_Facts\\_2018.pdf](https://cte.careertech.org/sites/default/files/CTE_Myths_Facts_2018.pdf) (accessed March 6, 2019)

[12] 78 Career and Technical Education Facts for 2019, <https://www.aeseducation.com/career-technical-education-facts-that-prove-its-awesome> (accessed March 6, 2019)

[13] Donald Trump Signs First Major Education policy Bill of His Presidency, *Education Week*, July 31, 2018. <https://www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/07/31/donald-trump-signs-career-technical-education-bill.html> (accessed March 6, 2019)

[14] 78 Career and Technical Education Facts for 2019, <https://www.aeseducation.com/career-technical-education-facts-that-prove-its-awesome> (accessed March 6, 2019)

[15] CTE Today! Association for Career and Technical Education, January 2018, [https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CTE\\_Today\\_Fact-Sheet\\_January2018.pdf](https://www.acteonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CTE_Today_Fact-Sheet_January2018.pdf) (accessed March 6, 2019)

**Rationale:** Career and Technical Education programs provide an educational option for students at all levels of academic achievement who wish to gain hands-on experience in an ever-widening array of career paths, many in emerging industries that will dominate the job market in years to come. Moreover, such options engage students who might ordinarily drop out of school or fail to graduate. As career and technical education programs are heavily subsidized through the federal Perkins Act, they come at considerably reduced cost to educational institutions and local taxpayers, and furthermore allow students to enter careers that pay well without incurring substantial student debt. Nonetheless, erroneous perceptions of Career and Technical Education programs persist; namely, that such educational options are limited to the traditional building trades or are suitable only for those who are not qualified for admission to post-secondary institutions. The National PTA website provides only a passing reference to Career and Technical Education, and Florida PTA's website likewise includes little information. Clearly there is a need to further educate parents, students, guidance counselors, and community members about Career and Technical Education, as well as an opportunity to advocate for enhanced funding as well as for expanding the enrollment and scope of such programs at the state and federal levels.