

CAREER/TRANSITION TO WORK EDUCATION

Code **IHAQ** Issued **10/06**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision for career/transition-to-work education.

Career education is the development of the skills and knowledge through which individuals may fulfill their own unique needs with regard to their occupational role, citizen responsibility, leisure activity and family development.

The board is committed to and supports the development and implementation of a statewide initiative to provide students with strong academics and real-world problem solving skills to meet the workforce needs of business and industry.

The district will adhere to the Education and Economic Development Act of 2005 through the implementation of the following components.

Career clusters and state academic standards

A curriculum aligned with state academic standards will be provided to students through career clusters with individualized educational, academic and career-oriented choices and greater exposure to career information and opportunities.

Career guidance and counseling/development

The district will lay the foundation for the clusters of study system for students as follows.

- Provide career awareness activities in elementary school (K-5).
- Identify interests and abilities in middle school and align these with clusters of study for the development of individual graduation plans.
- Provide guidance and curricula for high school students to complete individual graduation plans.
- Provide a variety of work-exploration experiences such as traditional mentoring, shadowing, service learning, school-based activities, internships and cooperative education, youth apprenticeships and extended learning opportunities.

The district will utilize the High Schools That Work (HSTW) whole-school reform model in its high schools or obtain approval from the state department of education to use another cluster or major organizational model.

The district will ensure the safety of students who participate in work-based activities requiring them to interact with individuals in the community.

Guidance and counseling model

The district will follow standards and strategies provided by the state department of education's guidance and counseling model in developing and implementing a comprehensive guidance and counseling program. This model will include a career guidance component for students at the high school level.

PAGE 2 - IHAQ - CAREER/TRANSITION TO WORK EDUCATION

Career specialists

Each middle and high school in the district will provide students with the services of a qualified career specialist who will work under the supervision of a certified guidance counselor. Career specialists will carry out specific professional duties in the district as required by law. The student to guidance personnel ratio in these schools will be 300-1.

Parental participation

The district will encourage parental participation in the clusters of study system by requiring annual parent counseling conferences for students beginning with the sixth grade and continuing through high school. The purpose of these conferences will be to assist in the decisions concerning career choices and the creation of individual graduation plans. A mediation process that includes parent advocates must be developed, explained and made available for conferences upon the request of the parent/legal guardian or the student.

The district may provide guidance and counseling sessions during hours that are not typically part of the workday, such as in the evenings or on Saturday.

Academic assistance programs (at-risk students)

The district will implement in each high school one or more evidenced-based program models for at-risk students to ensure that these students are given the opportunity to complete the requirements for a state high school diploma and to build skills that prepare them to enter the job market successfully.

Adopted 8/13/91; Revised 9/12/95, 4/12/05, 10/10/06

Legal references:

A. S.C. Code of Laws 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-59-10, et. seq. - South Carolina Education and Economic Development Act.