



Washington Association for Career and Technical Education
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January 7, 2014

Ben Rarick, Executive Director
Washington State Board of Education
PO Box 470216
Olympia WA 98504-7206

Dear Mr. Rarick:

The Washington Association for Career and Technical Education again thanks the State Board of Education for listening to our concerns and for your efforts to improve availability and equitable access to CTE programs through flexibility in earning required credits.

First, we strongly encourage the board to continue with the name change of "Occupational Education" credit to "**Career and Technical Education**" credit as proposed at the November 2013 meeting.

Changing the name will not change any of the underlying or related WACs for awarding credit now in WAC 180-51-067:
*(7) One credit in occupational education. "Occupational education" means credits resulting from a series of learning experiences designed to assist the student to acquire and demonstrate competency of skills under student learning goal four and which skills are required for success in current and emerging occupations. **At a minimum, these competencies shall align with the definition of an exploratory course as contained in the career and technical education (CTE) program standards of the office of the superintendent of public instruction.** (Bold added)*

The current 12 standards are outlined in [MEMORANDUM NO. 023-05M — Career and Technical Education Program Standards](#) on the OSPI website. All school districts awarding "Occupational Education" credit in non-CTE classes currently are required to follow these rules; a name change would not affect that going forward.

Second, we believe this name change supports the language of the first "Therefore it be resolved" in the "SBE's Amended Resolution To Approve Washington State Graduation Requirements: Career and College Ready." Which outlines the post-secondary pathways options for students.

We respectfully request that the board change the name of the "Occupational Education" to "Career and Technical Education" credit in their resolution before final adoption.

We look forward to sharing this testimony in front of the board and working with you in promoting the understanding and use of equivalency credits to expand flexibility for students across the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "TK", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Knue
Executive Director