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TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Nancy S. Grasmick *Nancy*

DATE: April 26, 2011

SUBJECT: 2011 Career and Technology Education Update

PURPOSE:

This item will provide the annual update on Maryland's system of Career and Technology Education to the State Board of Education. The Board will be presented with a PowerPoint presentation which is attached.

BACKGROUND:

Career and Technology Education (CTE) consists of sequential programs of study that prepare high school and community college students for entry into a wide range of careers, as well as further study. Program completion results in students obtaining industry certification and/or advanced standing at the next learning level. In Maryland, programs are organized around ten Career Clusters that include the career pathways existing in the Maryland economy. At the high school level, programs are offered in over 200 comprehensive high schools, 9 technical high schools, and 16 CTE centers. Maryland's 16 community colleges offer programs as well. CTE programs help students develop the academic, technical, and workplace skills to pursue careers in areas such as automotive technology; biomedical sciences; construction trades; finance and accounting; and pre-engineering.

Enrollment in career and technology programs for the 2009 – 2010 school year was 111,366 high school students and 67,835 community college students. The high school class of 2010 included 11,356 students who had completed a CTE program of study.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act provides federal resources to states to support CTE programs of study. Last year, Maryland received \$18.1 m in federal Perkins dollars. These funds were used to strengthen the academic and career skills of students participating in CTE programs through the development of new programs and improvement of existing programs.

The most recently reauthorized Act was signed into law in 2006. The Act requires states to submit a local application called a "State Plan" that specifies how the requirements of the Act will be carried out. The Act's Accountability provisions went into effect for the school year 2008 – 2009 and included new performance measures for both secondary and post-secondary programs. Another new requirement mandate that States develop CTE programs of study for implementation by the Local School Systems. The 2011 CTE update includes accountability reporting for the 2008 baseline year through 2010 of the new Perkins requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Maryland's system of Career Technology Education (CTE) includes career-focused programs of study designed to support high school graduates meeting college and career-ready standards. Half (50%) of Maryland's grade 10-12 students participate or enroll in one or more CTE courses. High school CTE programs are typically a four-course sequence of instructions that provides students both a broad understanding of a career field and more in-depth knowledge and skills in a specific area. For example, students in the pre-engineering program learn about the field of engineering and then choose a specialty course in Civil, Aerospace or Biotechnical Engineering.

The Act continues a state and local performance accountability system designed to assess the effectiveness of state and local programs. At the secondary level, student academic graduation rates are identical to those adopted by the State under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Included in new federal accountability measures is a Technical Achievement indicator which requires the State to measure student attainment of technical proficiency using assessments aligned with industry-recognized standards. Maryland also measures the number of high school students completing a CTE program of study that have also completed the course-credit requirements for entrance into the University System of Maryland.

The 2011 CTE update to the Board will include a review of these measures and the results for the Class of 2010.

ACTION:

Information only

NSG:KMO:pmm
Attachment