

## Resolutions

Alaska Workforce Investment Board (Final Draft)

Vocational Technical Education Providers

The Alaska Business Education Compact

Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 10-02**  
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL**  
**EDUCATION IN ALASKAN SCHOOLS**  
**DRAFT**

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WHEREAS, the Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB) is a private industry driven public organization that is accountable through its members including representatives from business and industry, education, and organized labor to the residents, the Legislature and the Governor of Alaska;

WHEREAS, the AWIB is the lead state planning and coordinating entity for state human resource investment programs including public education, pre-school through post-secondary (university), which includes career and technical education; and the AWIB recognizes that Alaska must have a highly educated and skilled workforce for a strong economy, future economic development, a prosperous future and healthy communities for all Alaskans; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, and the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development are working together to build career pathways for all Alaska's students with an emphasis to reach students early in their education to inform them about career opportunities and offer the education they need to achieve their career goals; and,

WHEREAS, offering career and technical education in schools

- increases student retention,
- results in more students graduating from high school,
- increases the advancement of students to postsecondary and higher education, and
- will prepare students for careers in the Alaska work place immediately following high school;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska Workforce Investment Board recommends to the Governor and Legislature that priority be given for career and technical education in all Alaskan schools to ensure all students can develop a career plan and have the opportunity within their school to learn, graduate and fulfill their career plan.

**CERTIFICATION**

The Alaska Workforce Investment Board held a meeting duly and regularly called, noticed, and convened this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2010 and the foregoing Resolution was adopted unanimously at said meeting.

Signed this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2010.

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Jim Lynch, Chair

## **Alaska**

### **Vocational-Technical Education Providers (VTEP)**

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**January 20, 2010**

**The Vocational Technical Education Providers urge the state and legislature to support the following:**

All Alaskan middle-school aged students will enter high school with a career pathway plan and have the opportunity to complete the next steps of that plan.

The legislature will fund school districts and post-secondary institutions such as regional training centers and universities, who work in joint partnership for career and technical education sufficiently to ensure to meet the expectations of their career pathway plan.

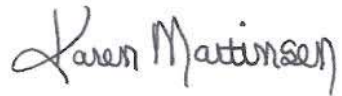
**Rationale:**

Career and technical education (CTE) produces gains in academic achievement and earnings and represents a significant contribution to the education of Alaska's youth and adults in preparation of a skilled workforce. An extensive body of research exists that describes CTE programs and their outcomes, whether high student achievement in reading, math & science, increases in earnings, improved employment outcomes, reduced drop-out rates, or increased enrollment in post-secondary education. Educators, employers, and government are all in agreement that schools must prepare students for next steps. At the same time, lack of focused funding has eroded CTE in Alaskan schools.

The middle school is a crucial time for students to look at career possibilities and plan their future courses to prepare for them. A career pathway will keep students moving through career-based studies as well as achievement in high academic courses that prepare them for future education and occupations.

The AGIA Training strategy has a core theme of CTE in Alaska schools for workforce development, as do the Oil, Gas & Mining (PARW), Construction and Health workforce development plans. The AASB, AACTE and AASSP associations have all recommended adequate funding of CTE in the schools.

Funding for Career & Technical Education has been only a small part of the block grant set-aside for multiple programs (special education, voc-tech, bilingual, gifted and talented, etc.) and has been diminishing. Equipment, facilities and CTE staff are at very low, even non-existent in many schools.



Karen Martinsen  
Co Chair  
Sitka Education Consortium



Rick Rios  
Co Chair  
ASD Coordinator – Career & Technology Education

**The Alaska Business Education Compact urges the state and legislature to support the following:**

All Alaskan middle-school aged students will enter high school with a career pathway plan and have the opportunity in high school to complete the next steps of that plan.

The legislature will fund school districts for career and technical education sufficiently to ensure to meet the expectations of their career pathway plan.

**Rationale:** Career and technical education (CTE) produces gains in academic achievement and earnings and represents a significant contribution to the education of Alaska's youth and adults in preparation of a skilled workforce. An extensive body of research exists that describes CTE programs and their outcomes, whether high student achievement in reading, math & science, increases in earnings, improved employment outcomes, reduced drop-out rates, or increased enrollment in post-secondary education. Educators, employers, and government are all in agreement that schools must prepare students for next steps. At the same time, lack of focused funding has eroded CTE in Alaskan schools.

The middle school is a crucial time for students to look at career possibilities and plan their future courses to prepare for them. A career pathway will keep students moving through career-based studies as well as achievement in high academic courses that prepare them for future education and occupations.

The AGIA Training strategy has a core theme of CTE in Alaska schools for workforce development, as do the Oil, Gas & Mining (PARW), Construction and Health workforce development plans. The AASB, AACTE and AASSP associations have all recommended adequate funding of CTE in the schools.

Funding for Career & Technical Education has been only a small part of the block grant set-aside for multiple programs (special education, voc-tech, bilingual, gifted and talented, etc.) and has been diminishing. Equipment, facilities and CTE staff are at very low, even non-existent in many schools.

## **Title: CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

### **Position Statement**

The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce believes that quality career and technical education (CTE) is essential to building a skilled Alaskan workforce. The Greater Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce supports the opportunity for all middle-school-aged students to have a career pathway plan upon entering high school and the opportunity to fulfill that plan.

### **Support for the Position**

Educators, employers and government are in agreement that schools must have the ability to prepare students to transition to the next steps in a career pathway, whether further education, on the job training or other formal steps. At the same time, lack of focused funding has eroded Career & Technical Education (CTE) in Alaskan schools.

The middle school is the best time for students to look at career possibilities and plan their future courses to prepare for them. A career pathway will keep students moving through career-based studies as well as basic math and communications courses to prepare them for future education and occupations.

The Alaska Gasline Inducement Act (AGIA) Training strategy has a core theme of CTE in Alaska schools for workforce development, as do the Oil, Gas & Mining (Putting Alaska's Resources to Work – PARW), Construction and health workforce development plans. The Alaska Association of School Boards (AASB), Alaska Association of Career Technical Education (AACTE), and Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals (AASSP) have all recommended adequate funding of CTE in the schools.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Funding for CTE/vocational education has been only a small part of the block grant set-aside for multiple programs and has been diminishing. Equipment, facilities and CTE staff are very low, and non-existent in many schools. The CTE programs need to be adequately funded, whether through reprioritization of existing funding or new funding sources being made available to it.