

Attachment 1

Background

The annual workforce readiness report was last provided at the September 2020 meeting of the Committee on Student Achievement and School Innovation. Though the pandemic created challenges for students' participation in work-based learning experiences, the Career and Technical Education (CTE) office has continued its work to improve the student work-readiness infrastructure and to put systems in place to expand workforce readiness throughout the district. The following are highlights from the 2020-2021 school year:

- Each high school had one main point of contact, which we call "Career Champions," to coordinate communication and work-based learning activities with CTE.
- Each school had a work-based learning team to assist students with work-readiness and employment. The school teams, which are led by the Career Champion, include the College and Career Center planning assistant and at least one of the following: counselor, parent coordinator, teacher, and/or transition coordinator.
- CTE met monthly with all Career Champions and College and Career Center representative(s). The meetings' purpose is to ensure efficient communication and coordination between the schools and CTE to continue growing the number of internships and youth apprenticeships for our students.
- An Employer Playbook was completed to provide employers with a guide on how to provide high-quality work-based learning opportunities for students. The Playbook will be distributed to employers and prospective employers this school year.
- CTE utilized an online application system for all potential youth apprentices, making the process easier and more efficient for students to apply and for CTE to coordinate and track.
- CTE created a work-readiness video for students interested in work opportunities. It provided an overview of our youth apprenticeship and internship programs, as well as next steps for students to become better prepared for work.
- CTE created a Job Readiness Google Classroom and another Google Classroom specific to youth apprenticeship students. The Classrooms include a multitude of valuable employment-preparation resources for students, including videos on different career clusters, job fair and other employment event information, resume building and interview tips, and soft skills development opportunities through Everfi's "Keys to Your Future."
- Though face-to-face work readiness sessions were canceled, CTE replaced them by providing a virtual "Career Connections" series throughout the year for all high school students to prepare them for internships and youth apprenticeships. The Career Connections virtual series included 13 industry panel discussions covering various career clusters, and 13 mock interview sessions for students to hone their interview skills. A total of 436 students attended these sessions, and 246 external partners participated as panelists and interviewers.
- The student job board was updated on a regular basis throughout the school year and was available on the CTE website for all high school students to view and apply.

Attachment 1

- CTE held the 4th annual all-district job fair virtually this year on March 10, 2020. A total of 413 students attended from 26 high schools.
- At least 1,065 students had some sort of work experience in the 2020-2021 school year, including students who worked in summer 2020. This number includes experiences such as the 2020 Mayor's Earn & Learn program, School-to-Work program, work release, youth apprenticeship, and internships.
- All students who successfully complete a youth apprenticeship receive one credit per semester. Students who participate in internships may also receive between one quarter and one credit per semester, depending on the number of hours worked.