

Career, Technical, and Adult Education Executive Summary, January 2020

2018-2019 Activities:

The CTAE advisory committee meets each month during the school year from September through June. Meetings are one hour long and present information to the committee to inform, receive input, or develop reports concerning CTAE within Arlington Public Schools. The activities of the committee for this year included:

- Update on work-based learning opportunities.
- Arlington Tech – updates on enrollment, lottery process, Work-based learning opportunities, and construction updates.
- Cyber Security opportunities offered in Arlington Community Education.
- New CTE Course Updates
- Input on Perkins Plan, Program review, and Creating Excellence Award review.
- Review of Dual Enrollment opportunities with Northern Virginia Community College.
- REEP and Arlington Community Learning program updates.

Success in the CTE program: Success for Career and Technical Education (CTE) students helps to support the School Board's Strategic Plan emphasis on educating the whole child. Students in CTE classes gain valuable skills related to career pathways in addition to the education needed to succeed in those careers. A deeper understanding of career fields and opportunities are also instilled in a CTE student. Industry credentials and licenses validate a student's skill level, which students in CTE classes gain while they are still in high school. When a student graduates with validated skills, industry credentials, and the understanding of the benefits of additional training and education they are better prepared to continue their path toward their career goals.

Update on Previous Recommendations

Past Recommendation #1: Provide a full-time staff person to continue to develop opportunities with the community and make connections to schools.

This was one of ACI's top-rated recommendations from 2018-2019. Arlington Public Schools values its partnerships with various employers and is interested in enhancing our collaboration with the business community to increase career awareness and exploration activities. These career-exploration activities include work-based learning opportunities that expand APS students' work-readiness skills. Currently, APS students participate in a variety of work-readiness activities, including labor market information on [Naviance](#) and [Virginia Career View](#), the Arlington Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneurs Academy, Urban Alliance internship programs, Virginia Tech's World of Work programs, the PRIME internship program, and the APS' Senior Experience programs.

APS is continually interested in working with the business community and the Chamber to provide Arlington students with internship and apprenticeship opportunities, occupational and workplace education, and other activities that will allow students to become better prepared for the workforce. APS students are looking for opportunities to build these skills.

Status: This past budget cycle the School Board included funding for a full-time partnership coordinator to be hired to work in the Department of Teaching and Learning to develop and support strong connections among schools, families, and the community to broaden opportunities for student learning, development, and growth. The following strategies were highlighted in the 2020 School Board Adopted Budget Book:

Strategies:

- Provide training and resources for staff and families to create meaningful partnerships that support student success and well-being.
- Foster effective and meaningful collaboration among and between resources in APS and the community, including APS programs and services, student, parent, and teacher organizations, County government agencies and programs, non-profit organizations, businesses, advisory groups, and community groups.
- Build partnerships with local, state, and national businesses, organizations, and governments to support a variety of learning experiences.
- Partner with local organizations to provide wraparound services to students including healthcare, nutrition, academic, and social and emotional supports.
- Build a comprehensive structure for defining strategic partnerships, setting expectations, monitoring performance, and measuring quality.

The CTAE Advisory Committee and the CTAE office commend the School Board for their support of this endeavor to provide Work based learning opportunities for APS students. At current, no one has been hired to fill the position of full-time partnership coordinator, however, it is expected that the position will be posted and filled shortly.

2018 – 2024 Strategic Plan Alignment:

- The committee has work to provided input and recommendations to the APS staff which align to the following School Board Strategic Plan goals:
- Student Success: Multiple Pathways to Student Success
- Partnerships: Will meet the needs of students, specifically in the areas of internships and externships.
- The committee feels that the recommendation of a partnership coordinator is a positive step to meeting performance objective 4 and 23. Work will continue to provide support and recommendations to the CTAE office and ACI to enhance opportunities in this area.

Committee members: Alisa Cowen, Cowen Design Group, Committee Co-Chair; David Remick, Alexandria/Arlington Regional Workforce Council, Committee Co-Chair; Lida Anestidou, Community Member; Jim Egenrieder, Virginia Tech Engineering Education/Natural Resources; Tom Gutnick, Community Member; Derk Jeffrey, Business Partner; Christine McCurdy, Urban Alliance; Alex Payne, Community Member; Luann Moy, Community Volunteer; Rosie O’Neil, Georgetown University and NOVA Board; Dr. Diane Murphy, Marymount University

CTAE Staff: Kris Martini, Director, APS Career, Technical, and Adult Education; Phyllis Gandy, Supervisor, Career and Technical Education; Shari Brown, Coordinator, Project Y.E.S; Margaret Chung, Principal, Arlington Career Center; Jacqueline Firster, STEM Education Specialist; TBA, REEP; Raul Matos, Coordinator, Adult Education; Rona Hernandez, Administrative Specialist to the Director