

Participant Questions from CTE Webinar (Chat Box)

June 25, 2015

1. Who pays for the drug testing?
The West Virginia Department of Education send grants to the local schools to cover the cost of drug testing.
2. Did you look at initiatives in any other states as models?
No, this was designed in partnership with our state's employers in order to best meet their workforce needs.
3. How often are the classroom "businesses" reincarnated so all students get the experience and buy-in?
We have no classrooms anymore.... All are companies all the time. The experience and buy-in starts from the very beginning during the application and interview stages. The Simulated Workplace is not a curriculum, but rather a change in environment and delivery.
4. Are local businesses used for each school?
Local businesses, state associations, and the National Guard are all involved with our schools. We like to use local businesses where possible as it becomes a win-win for the businesses and the students. Students are being hired for summer jobs and internships based on the employers interacting with students and seeing their work during the business inspections.
5. Do they (the programs) determine the certifications the students should receive? Or does the state determine the certifications that are valued by business and industry?
Each program has an associated, relevant industry certification. We gather input from the state industry associations and the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce to determine the certification valued or wanted by business/industry.
6. So there could be multiple companies at one time in a classroom? How is that managed?
No, there is only one company per program. For example, a welding program is one single company. If there are multiple classes for that program (i.e., class in the morning and another in the afternoon), these classes are all part of the same company, but have different shifts.
7. Do you use industry-recognized certifications and the portfolios to demonstrate a student's Technical Skill Attainment and/or use to meet the federal Perkins performance indicator?
Yes.

8. The presenter indicated that all CTE funds are used for the Simulated Workplace programs. Does this mean all federal Perkins money as well as state funds?
Yes and no. We follow Perkins regulations. But, Perkins regulations do not run contrary to Simulated Workplace, because Simulated Workplace is an environmental change, not a curriculum change. We have more discretion with state funds, and have reorganized them to better facilitate Simulated Workplace needs.
9. What is the role of postsecondary education in the Simulated Workplace? Concurrent enrollment?
Because the Simulated Workplace is not a curriculum change, students still have every opportunity to participate in early postsecondary programs such as dual and concurrent enrollment. We have the [EDGE Initiative](#) in West Virginia. Students can earn free college credit for specific programs in the career pathways.
10. How is the partnership developed by the schools with business and industry? What's the buy-in for them? Workplace-ready students to feed right into their companies... What if there are no local businesses in the area, especially in small rural schools? I also am interested in how this works in small, rural areas.
At the state level, we formed partnerships with our industry associations and the West Virginia Workforce Investment Board to help recruit inspectors. The state also hired a contractor to help facilitate this recruiting process. To fill the need for inspectors in our small rural areas, we have partnered with the National Guard to help with inspections, but we have had business folks agree to travel to some rural areas to help us out.
11. Were there major infrastructure changes needed to implement this?
No. The West Virginia Board of Education codified the Simulated Workplace's 12 Protocols into statute ([WV State Policy 2520.13](#), page 4). Also, it is not expensive.
12. Will this presentation be archived, and if so, where can it be accessed?
Yes. It can be accessed at arccta.org or careertech.org/webinars.
13. Are GEDs and high school diplomas obtained at the same time?
Yes. We have the Option Pathway initiative. Students get their GED paired with a CTE program and upon successful completion of both, students earn a high school diploma.
14. What is the plan for long-term sustainability?
The Simulated Workplace is the way Career Technical Education does business in West Virginia. We seek buy-in from every stakeholder – from engaging our business partners at the state and local levels to the teachers and students in each company – and we are committed to creating an environment that has positive outcomes for students.