



SAN DIEGO COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

6401 Linda Vista Road, San Diego, CA 92111 • 858-292-3500 • www.sdcoe.net
San Diego County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Paul Gothold

November 9, 2017

Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton
Presiding Judge of the San Diego Superior Court
220 West Broadway
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Review and Comments on the San Diego Grand Jury 2016/2017 “Vocational Education Today: It’s Not Old-School Anymore”

Dear Judge Barton:

We have reviewed the facts, findings and recommendations in the “Vocational Education Today: It’s Not Old-School Anymore.” The Grand Jury made four findings and three recommendations to which we respond as follows:

Finding 01: All county high school districts have some capacity for having a successful CTE program, and funding for such a program is vital. The SDCOE offers help for both items.

SDCOE agrees with the above finding.

Finding 02: The larger a high school district’s funding for a CTE program, the more comprehensive it is.

SDCOE agrees with the above finding.

Finding 03: Funding is critical for continuing the CTE programs in the county’s high schools.

SDCOE agrees with the above finding.

Finding 04: SDCOE is an invaluable source for helping the county’s high school districts in implementing and funding their CTE programs.

SDCOE agrees with the above finding.

Recommendation 17-58: Continue its work in finding additional sources of funding for the county’s various CTE programs.

SDCOE has implemented the above recommendation. SDCOE is actively involved in fund development strategies to continue its work in supporting and growing CTE programs, also known as Career Pathways, in the County. Specific activities and strategies include:

Service and leadership that maximize the success of all students

San Diego County Board of Education

Paulette Donnellon Guadalupe González Alicia Muñoz Mark Powell Rick Shea

- San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, a CCPT partner and business intermediary and regional talent development stakeholder, has committed to take the lead representing the One San Diego Skills for Success Initiative – a consortium of San Diego businesses – to seek funding that will sustain the regional work-based learning ePortal system that supports students’ industry connection to their career pathway course work/instruction.
- Classroom of the Future Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that works to advance its mission by ensuring that San Diego students are prepared to thrive in a competitive global society, has partnered with SDCOE staff to refine their board adopted Strategic Initiative “Career Pathways,” which seeks to lead the community in establishing more career pathway opportunities for San Diego students. SDCOE staff will provide a presentation on Career Pathway exemplars at the CFF December board of directors meeting.
- The CCPT Executive Committee, composed of executive leadership from five K-12 districts, three community college districts, local workforce development agency, and United Way, are actively engaged in championing Career Pathways as a strategy for improving student outcomes and addressing the regions workforce skills gap.
- SDCOE has allocated \$80,000 of CCPT grant funds to develop a comprehensive marketing campaign that will support all the above efforts through digital, print and event strategies.

Recommendation 17-59: Continue to reach out to all school districts in the county to support efforts to establish or expand their CTE programs.

A central principle of the CCPT grant is to further develop and enhance Career Pathways county-wide to improve student outcomes and better prepare students for college and careers. Since grant award and ongoing, SDCOE has implemented the above recommendation:

- SDCOE and team continue to provide professional learning in:
 - Project-Based Learning
 - ePortal (web-based WBL) training
 - Support on the CTE Quality Standards
 - Program of Study
 - Marketing and Recruitment strategies
- CCPT will expand to additional industry sectors beginning in spring 2018.
- A key element of CCPT is student support and transition strategies for successful transition from high school to community. SDCOE has expanded to include middle

Honorable Jeffrey B. Barton

November 9, 2017

Page | 3

transitions to high schools, increasing career awareness activities and career pathway offerings at local high schools. These activities support parent and students making informed decisions on their high school education plans.

Recommendation 17-60: Encourage those high school districts in the county that are currently not participating in SDCOE's CTE program to reconsider their position and seek SDCOE's help and resources to do so.

Beginning in the spring of 2017 and ongoing, SDCOE has implemented the above recommendation as follows:

- Meeting with administrators and CTE teachers from two districts that are not CCPT funded. Meetings have involved developing programs of study, student outreach/marketing materials, and focusing on the 11 elements of a high quality CTE program.
- Providing Career Pathways technical assistance and support to charter schools developing new programs of study.

On behalf of the San Diego County Office of Education, we look forward to continuing our support for San Diego county Career Pathway programs.

Sincerely,



Paul Gothold, Ed.D.

County Superintendent of Schools

San Diego County Office of Education