

Career and Technical Education System
Frequently Asked Questions Related to Career
Preparation Programs and Student Access – FAQs
January 18, 2013

The following FAQs are intended to answer some of the commonly asked questions about the 2012 Regulations of the Board of Regents Governing Career and Technical Education in Rhode Island. Responses to questions relating to transportation regions were provided in an initial guidance document that can be found at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/default.aspx#CTE>. Responses to questions relating to career and technical education state funding and the RIDE program approval process will be addressed in future guidance and/or correspondence planned for Spring 2013.

These questions are distilled from many received by the Rhode Island Department of Education and will focus on career preparation programs and student access to RIDE-approved career preparation programs in Rhode Island.

Career Preparation Programs

What is required for career preparation programs to obtain RIDE approval?

In order to gain RIDE approval for career preparation programs, they must be aligned with the Career Preparation Program standards, demonstrate the required student outcomes, and meet all other RIDE requirements as described in the CTE regulations and associated Program Approval Guidance materials. See CTE Regulations and Guidance Documents at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/default.aspx#CTE>.

Will career and technical education students be required to meet all of the Rhode Island high school graduation requirements?

Yes, all students must meet the RIDE High School Graduation Requirements in order to earn a RI High School Diploma. CTE students may meet some of the diploma requirements their coursework and technical activities in career and technical education courses.

What happens to career/technical education-focused programs that are not RIDE Provisionally or Fully Approved?

Programs that are not provisionally or fully approved may still operate but are ineligible for out of district or categorical career and technical education funds. Federal funds may be similarly affected in the future. Career/technical education-focused programs interested in RIDE approval are encouraged to accelerate preparations for RIDE program review.

Are career preparation programs required to partner with business, higher education, and others?

Partnerships for improvement of programming, credentialing, dual-enrollment and advanced standings are one of the standards that are used to approve career preparation programs. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the program administrators to establish partnerships and articulation agreements as necessary to provide internships, dual enrollment and advanced standing opportunities for students.

Can a statewide internship protocol be instituted?

This is currently under consideration with RIDE, Department of Labor and Training, and other state agencies.

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Are programs required to have an Advisory Board?

No, however LEAs are encouraged to form and maintain broad partnerships to support school personnel and ensure program quality.

If students are getting industry certifications, does the program have to be certified?

Industry program certification and student credentials are not always aligned. However, programs are expected to seek and obtain certification if such industry certification is available. Some industry certifications may be applied as part of the career preparation program approval.

Is there an available list of approved programs?

A list of Approved Career Preparation Programs is located on the RIDE website at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/default.aspx#CTE>.

Will CTE courses in a state-approved career preparation program be a graduation requirement? If so, will it be the LEA's responsibility to include these credits in the district's graduation requirements?

No, minimum graduation requirements are established by the Secondary Regulations. However, LEAs may allow CTE coursework to meet those requirements, i.e. a math credit may be earned through a carpentry career preparation program.

What are the specific expectations regarding internships?

Work-based learning experiences are specific to individual programs, certifications or credentialing requirements, and are often driven by industry standards i.e. certified nursing assistant, cosmetology, etc.

Is ROTC one of the approved programs that have to be available to all students?

ROTC is recognized as a career program that must meet all career preparation requirements to achieve RIDE-approval. Once RIDE approved, it is treated as any other career preparation program.

Who determines the number of credits given for a particular preparation program course?

Course credit assignment is typically driven by content and determined by the LEA curriculum committee.

Student Access

Will RIDE regulate recruitment practices and access to students, as well as provide information to parents and students?

RIDE does not regulate specific recruitment practices. However, LEAs are responsible for communicating accurate and current CTE program information to students and families, informing them of available career preparation programs across the state. LEAs are responsible for ensuring that all students have opportunities to participate in career exploration activities and to enroll in approved career preparation programs.

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Representatives of RIDE-approved career preparation programs are expected to have access to students in all secondary schools. Access may include, but is not limited to, physical and electronic mailing lists, assemblies and other presentation opportunities, field trips and site visits.

A list of RIDE-approved career preparation programs will be maintained at <http://www.ride.ri.gov/OMP/default.aspx#CTE>

CTE program access includes special education and ELL students. How can we comply with federal civil rights regulations while simultaneously meeting the math and reading requirements for admissions?

LEAs operating RIDE-approved career preparation programs are authorized to set reasonable, fair, equitable, and program-appropriate admission standards that represent the minimum levels of student readiness. All admission criteria shall comply with all relevant state and federal civil rights laws and regulations. All assessments and testing procedures must include appropriate and identified accommodations for students as appropriate, and in accordance/compliance with Rhode Island General Law.

Are students who participate in career exploration programs given preferential admission privileges?

If the number of qualified student applications exceeds program capacity, students must be selected using a lottery process that fairly and equitably selects from all eligible students. When applicable, LEAs may prioritize program enrollment only for eligible resident students from the entire pool of applicants meeting the minimum admission requirements.

Are students allowed to access out-of-state CTE programs?

CTE programs outside of Rhode Island are not governed by or included in the RIDE-regulated CTE delivery system.

Are comprehensive high schools allowed to duplicate CTE programs offered within or outside of their transportation region?

Yes, this is allowable and is typically based on student demand. The CTE Regulations do not limit the number of similar or same programs within a transportation region.