

The School Board of Gadsden County

Bylaws & Policies

Unless a specific policy has been amended and the date of the policy was revised is noted at the bottom of that policy, the bylaws and policies of The School Board of Gadsden County were adopted on June 25, 2013, and were in effect beginning June 26, 2013.

2421 - VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The School Board recognizes that education is a function of both knowledge and the application of knowledge. Education that ties abstract ideas to practical applications also prepares students to use their minds, as well as preparing them to be citizens, parents, and members of a civilized culture. Vocational/Technical education and academic education are complementary, rather than exclusive.

For the purposes of this policy, "vocational/technical education" shall be defined as a program designed to provide career and technical education experiences. These experiences will complement and reinforce academic concepts that are particularly amenable to contextualized learning in a distinct career area and provide occupationally specific skills.

The Board shall provide a vocational/technical education program that includes, but is not limited to:

- A. job preparatory courses designed to provide students with the competencies necessary for effective entry into an occupation;
- B. exploratory courses designed to give students initial exposure to skills and attitudes associated with a broad range of occupations in order to assist them in making informed decisions regarding their future academic and occupational goals;
- C. practical arts courses designed to teach students practical generic skills which, although applicable in some occupations, are not designed to prepare students for entry into an occupation;
- D. career education instruction which is designed to strengthen and integrate basic academic skills and vocational/technical skills and occupational awareness;
- E. accelerated vocational/technical programs such as vocational dual enrollment designed to enable high school students to earn elective credit toward graduation and postsecondary credit toward an A.S. degree or a technical certificate.

Any effort to recruit students to participate in a particular vocational/technical program shall follow applicable State and Federal laws regarding provision of information.

The Board recognizes the value of providing students with actual workplace experiences as part of their preparation for productive employment and appreciates the cooperation of local employers in accommodating such education and training activities at their places of business.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop workplace education and training programs as part of the vocational/technical education curriculum, which may include the establishment of career and professional (CAP) academies as research based programs that integrate a rigorous academic curriculum with an industry-driven career curriculum. Multiple academies may be established in accordance with Florida statutes. Each CAP academy must:

- A. provide a rigorous standards-based academic curriculum integrated with a career curriculum;
- B. include one or more partnerships with postsecondary institutions, business, industry, employers, or other appropriate partners;

- C. provide creative and tailored student advisement;
- D. provide a career education certification on the high school diploma;
- E. provide instruction in high growth, high demand, and high pay careers;
- F. provide instruction resulting in competency, certification, or credentials;
- G. provide opportunities for students to receive Ready to Work Certification;
- H. include an evaluation plan developed jointly with the Department of Education.

Once developed, the Superintendent shall submit the vocational/technical education curriculum to the Board for approval, and then submit it to the Department of Education. This curriculum shall be updated annually, submitted to the Board for approval, and then re-submitted to the Department of Education.

Cooperative education programs are available to high school students without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The Superintendent is to ensure that application forms for cooperative education programs contain a notice of nondiscrimination. The notice of nondiscrimination shall be part of the application forms provided to employers.

Procedures for program operation in accordance with applicable labor laws are incorporated in the Florida Department of Education, Curriculum Frameworks, and Student Performance Standards. Those documents are kept on file in the Superintendent's office.

F.S. 450.081, 1001.42, 1003.01, 1003.493

29 U.S.C. 201-219

F.A.C. 6A-6.301 through 6A-6.371, 6A-6.672, 6A-14.37

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