

REALIGNMENT OF COURSE SEQUENCES – A DISCUSSION

I. Discussion at IMT over the past year

- A. Career and Technical Education (CTE) in PA¹
- B. Project 720²

II. Career and Technical Education: Selected Highlights

- A. Academic Rigor
 - 1) No separate academic track for vocational students
 - 2) Ensure remediation for CTE students with weak academic preparation
- B. Industry Relevance
 - 1) Use relevant labor market data and give priority to high-wage, high-demand programs
 - 2) Eliminate obsolete, ineffective programs
 - 3) Apply industry-recognized standards to technical programs wherever possible
- C. Postsecondary Connections
 - 1) Strengthen incentives for articulation between secondary CTE and college programs, including dual enrollment programs
 - 2) Allow area career and technical education schools (ACTES) with quality programs to grant college credit for approved (non-duplicative) programs

III. Project 720: Selected Highlights

- A. Ensure that every student graduates ready for college and career by implementing a rigorous college and career prep core curriculum for all students which includes:
 - 1) 4 years of college preparatory English
 - 2) 4 years of math including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and a higher math
 - 3) 3 years of science including biology, chemistry, and physics or physical science
 - 4) 3 years of social studies
 - 5) 2 years of World Language is highly recommended
- B. Redesign school district policies and system to strengthen the academic infrastructure and increase student achievement
 - 1) Make better use of student time for all students
 - a. Create more time for instruction
 - b. Target highest need students particularly in 9th and 10th grade
 - c. Make better use of the senior year for students who have achieved the academic students
- C. Design and implement data-informed student advisory services
- D. Provide multiple pathways to prepare students for post secondary success

IV. Recommended Sequences

- A. Academic/Career Technical
- B. Honor

V. How do we get started?

- A. Investigate applying to become part of Project 720 next June/July 2006—a three-year commitment to change direction.

¹ “Jobs for the Future”, February 2005, www.jff.org

² “Project 720” June 14, 2005, www.pde.state.pa.us/c_and_i - More information contact Dr. Amy Hodges Slamp at amhodes@state.pa.us