

# REALIGNMENT OF COURSE SEQUENCES – A DISCUSSION

## I. Discussion at IMT over the past year

- A. Career and Technical Education (CTE) in PA<sup>1</sup>
- B. Project 720<sup>2</sup>

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> “Jobs for the Future”, February 2005, [www.jff.org](http://www.jff.org)

<sup>2</sup> “Project 720” June 14, 2005, [www.pde.state.pa.us/c\\_and\\_i](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/c_and_i) - More information contact Dr. Amy Hodges Slamp at [amhodes@state.pa.us](mailto:amhodes@state.pa.us)