House Rural Development Council
Coastal College of Georgia
Brunswick, Georgia

On Behalf of:

Georgia Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association (GVATA)

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Overview

• About GVATA
• Assumptions
• Pros
• Cons
• Alternatives
About GVATA and its Members

- 451 GVATA Members (Active Ag Teachers)
- 333 Programs
- Enrollment
  - 71,207 Students (37,467 HS/33,740 MS)
  - 42,288 FFA Members
- Pathways
  - 34 Pathways
    - Animal Science
    - Agricultural Mechanics
    - Diversified Agriculture
    - Food Science
    - Forestry/Natural Resources
    - Plant Science/Horticulture
Assumptions Based on HB 778

• Does Not Change
  • CTAE teachers remain local BOE employees
  • Principals/Counselors still provide local services
  • QBE funding unchanged for CTAE
  • Federal Perkins funds split initially unchanged
  • CTAE Teacher Certification remains unchanged

• Changes
  • CTAE teachers will be teaching new standards
  • CTAE teachers will potentially teach new TCSG-developed courses
  • TCSG becomes “State Eligible Agency” for federal Perkins
  • Accountability for Extended Day/Year funding with TCSG
  • CTAE leadership and state staff under direction of TCSG
Potential Positive Outcomes

• Further alignment of content standards with employers’ needs for selected technical pathways
• Increase dual enrollees participating in CTSO leadership
• Sustain policymakers’ budgetary support for CTAE
• Additional assessment tools for CTAE Students
Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

• Mission Alignment -- New Content Standards and TCSG-approved courses narrows focus of current agricultural education programs
  • TCSG Mission: develop globally competitive workforce
  • TCSG Vision: acknowledged as world leader in technical education
  • TCSG not historically focused statewide on agricultural education
    • Not offered at every TCSG institution
Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

• Mission Alignment -- New Content Standards and TCSG-approved courses narrows focus of agricultural education programs
  • Ag Ed Customers: Students go back to farms and UGA, FVSU, ABAC to major in agriculture.
  • Ag Ed Pathways are broader than just technical education
    • Most popular HS courses – Basic Agricultural Science, Animal Science Technology and Biotechnology, General Horticulture and Plant Science
  • Middle School and Elementary Students – some focus on agricultural literacy/beyond just career education
Concerns with CTAE Transfer to TCSG

• Transformation of Ag Ed Student Population
  • Ag Ed Goal: Develop future agriculturalists for every aspect of the food and fiber supply chain
    • Farmers, agricultural mechanics, agronomists, poultry scientists, veterinarians, ag lenders, extension agents, etc.
  • High demand jobs in agriculture are broader than technical education’s current footprint
  • Current Brand: You can take ag ed courses, be in the FFA, and pursue any career you desire
  • Changed parental and student perception of agricultural education under TCSG
• Unknown: Colleges’ perception of newly developed TCSG standards
Other Concerns

• The unknown of five, ten, twenty years from now
• TCSG’s limited experience with FFA/SAE
  • FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience are critical to agricultural education’s three-ring model
• Diluted or changed focus of Area Teachers
• Local BOEs acting as fiscal agent for Area Teachers
• Young Farmer teachers’ role in TCSG
  • YF teachers or classroom agriculture teachers required to teach at TCSG?
• The lost of an elected official as the leader
• Next generations of ag ed leaders within TCSG
  • Retention/Replacement of current State Staff
• Erosion of Perkins funds to CTAE
Alternatives

• Thanks to prior support, the status quo in agricultural education is largely succeeding:
  • Turning out right mix of workforce and college prep.
  • Rely on industry partners to confirm meeting employers’ demands
  • SB 330 codifies the importance of agricultural education
  • 3rd largest FFA Association in the nation
  • *But* we can always do better

• Focus on recruiting and retaining excellent teachers

• Fully Fund Extended Day/Year (FY ‘19 short $175,178)

• Agree with 2017 Council’s second recommendation:
  • Increase part-time to full-time and add new positions/coordinators for Career, Technical and Agricultural Education/work-based learning based on need.
Questions

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