

## Office of CTE Bi-Weekly Update August 13, 2021

This update is provided by the Indiana Office of Career and Technical Education, housed under the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. The Office of CTE provides an update on activity related to CTE on a bi-weekly basis throughout the academic year.

The bi-weekly update is the primary way the Office of CTE shares information related to career and technical education with the entire CTE community. We welcome your support in encouraging anyone who would benefit from the information to join our listserv. Individuals can [sign up here](#). If you are no longer interested in receiving these updates, a link to unsubscribe can be found at the end of this update. Questions can be directed to [CTE@gov.IN.gov](mailto:CTE@gov.IN.gov).

### Next Level Programs of Study

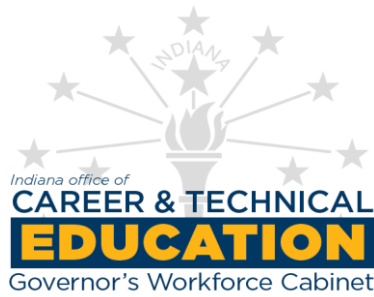
**NLPS Adoption Survey:** In order to better support schools that are implementing NLPS courses during this school year, Office of CTE staff are developing a database of which programs of study and courses schools are offering. If you are a high school implementing NLPS courses this year, please take a few minutes to [complete this short survey](#). This information will be used to confirm or verify information that has been received from CTE directors throughout the state.

**NLPS Misconceptions:** With the beginning of the school year, Office of CTE staff have been receiving a variety of questions regarding Next Level Programs of Study. Clarifying information regarding a few common misconceptions is shared below:

***Misconception #1: NLPS courses aren't official and can't be used for the 2021-22 school year:*** While it is true that NLPS courses are not included in the Department of Education's Course Titles and Descriptions (CTD) for the 2021-22 school year, the courses are available and will be funded for this school year. Last fall the GWC/OCTE agreed with State Board of Education staff and leadership that NLPS courses would be available to schools on an opt-in basis during this school year. The courses will be added to the 2022-2023 CTD and all of the information that you need to implement the courses in 21-22 is provided on our [website](#), including course framework information, competencies, dual credit, funding, and assignment codes.

***Misconception #2: NLPS courses may only be taken one course at a time:*** All required prerequisites in the NLPS courses may be enrolled in as corequisites. This allows students to enroll in up to six credits in a pathway at one time. This could be the Principles, Concentrator A, and Concentrator B course, Concentrator B plus 4 credits of the Pathway Capstone course, or a variety of other combinations.

***Misconception #3: Principles courses and Introductory courses are the same and interchangeable:*** There may be some overlap in content depending on the pathway, but the two types of courses have different purposes. The biggest difference between the Principles courses and Introductory courses is that the



Principles course is usually aligned to postsecondary dual credit courses required for a credential. Another way to consider the difference is that Introductory courses are generally geared toward exploring an entire career cluster, where the Principles course is focused on foundational knowledge and skills that are needed for a specific pathway or a group of pathways. As a reminder, Introductory courses are not a required prerequisite for a student to take a Principles course.

**NLPS Frequently Asked Questions:** In addition to the information above, the [NLPS Frequently Asked Questions document](#) first released last February answers many of the most common NLPS related questions. The document has been kept updated and addresses questions regarding:

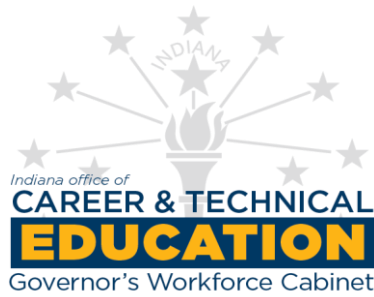
- Transitioning to NLPS courses,
- NLPS course sequence and student progression,
- Capstone Course Information,
- Teacher Qualifications,
- Funding, and
- Dual Credit

Individuals are highly encouraged to check the FAQ document before contacting our office to avoid unnecessary delays waiting for a response.

**Technical Skills Development Course:** Many of you have reached out with questions about the Technical Skills Development (TSD) Course. The TSD course is designed as a complementary course to a Concentrator A and/or Concentrator B course to provide additional lab time or hands-on skill development or to provide time for participation in WBL experiences. In order to use the TSD course, a student must be concurrently enrolled in either a Concentrator A and/or Concentrator B course. Schools should use course code 7156 to enroll students in TSD. TSD will be funded at \$300, the same rate as an Introductory course.

**NLPS Course Grades:** One of our most commonly received questions about NLPS courses is how to award grades for the individual courses when students are enrolled in a 2- or 3-hour training session where multiple courses are being taught. This is a challenge because in the past students would have to be enrolled in both or all three courses for both semesters. One option is to essentially continue what you have been doing for Level I and Level II courses and issue a program grade. The drawback to this option is that the grade does not directly align to the course content, and it may be necessary to make grade changes at the end of the semester or year.

A second option is to take advantage of the opportunity to enroll students in the NLPS courses as a program (as discussed in the previous update). As long as a school enrolls students in the same number of credits in both the first and second semester (or each trimester), this option allows a school the opportunity to enroll students in both credits of a course in a single semester. Being able to do so will ensure enrollments better align to the content that is actually being taught. This should help when



awarding grades at the end of a term. For example, a school may enroll a student in Principles of Welding for 2 credits along with 1 credit of Shielded Metal Arc Welding in the first semester and enroll in the second credit of Shielded Metal Arc Welding along with 2 credits of Gas Welding Processes in the second semester. **Please note that this rule only applies to NLPS courses and may not be used with current courses.**

### InTERS Training and Enrollment Information

**Fall InTERS Training:** The state of Indiana is fortunate to have a comprehensive data management system for CTE called InTERS. As more and more schools are importing or entering their own data, it is important to make sure that individuals are properly trained to utilize InTERS.

The Office of CTE will be offering fall trainings through both in-person options and a virtual webinar. To view the available trainings and to register [click here](#). Questions regarding trainings can be directed to [Jedd Vance](#).

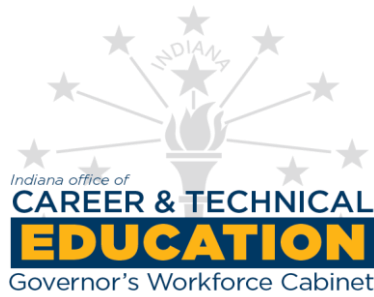
**NLPS Enrollment Information:** The previous bi-weekly update detailed an option in InTERS to convert enrollments in current courses to NLPS courses when importing enrollments. Our data team has been working on some shortcuts similar to cloning sessions to make it easier to manually enter NLPS courses into InTERS. Both options will be discussed in detail as a part of the InTERS training.

### Industry Certifications

**Certification Funding:** As mentioned in our previous update, the GWC is working on a plan to distribute \$500,000 (\$200,000 from state funds and \$300,000 from Perkins Leadership funds) to at least partially cover the costs of industry certifications on the Graduation Pathways list. Currently we are working towards a process that would disburse the funds similar to how the DWD CTE Performance grants worked a few years ago. Schools would submit completion data for certifications and then be reimbursed a prorated amount based upon the total number of certifications given. Additional details will be provided in future updates as more information becomes available.

**Certification List Update:** The Office of CTE is working with DWD and DOE to consolidate the [2019-2020 Grad Pathways eligible certifications](#) and the [Addendum list](#) developed last year into a single list of certifications that will count for Graduation Pathways for the 2021-2022 school year. We expect the final list to be available by our next update if not before and it will be posted [here](#). Any certification on the promoted certification from 19-20 and any certification listed on the addendum that was approved for Grad Pathways will still be available for this school year. There are a few additional certifications, including ones listed on the addendum as TBD and the newest additions to the Promoted List of Industry Certifications, that will be considered for Grad Pathways eligibility this year.

### Non-Standard Licensure Waivers



The Office of CTE is accepting Nonstandard Licensure Waivers through **August 30**. The deadline is designed for late resignations or emergency situations that may arise. If approved, Nonstandard Licensure Waivers allow a **currently licensed** teacher to teach a course outside of their licensed area. Approval of licensure waivers is based on the teacher's education, work experience, and the potential for full licensure. Licensure waivers may need to be renewed on an annual basis and may be conditional on progress toward full licensure, completing training, earning relevant certifications, and/or participation in related externships.

We are asking that you submit non-standard waivers directly into InTERS. You are able to enter waivers for your school if you have an InTERS login through the lists page in the CTE personality. Select Waivers from the list menu. Select Add to take you to the data entry screens. For a licensure waiver the general and licensure tabs must be completed. If you do not have an InTERS login please contact your area CTE director about submitting the waivers. While we would appreciate your help in using the InTERS system to submit waivers, the MS Word Waiver Forms submitted via email will continue to be accepted.

### **Reminder – Office of CTE Course Delivery Policies**

The Office of CTE released guidance for online and virtual courses in July of 2020 to address new challenges brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Those policies will remain in place for the 2021-2022 school year. The policy document can be found [here](#) and contains a definition of in-person, hybrid (blended), virtual, and online courses. The document also includes a course list that details the requirements for hands-on instruction for courses being offered in a hybrid (blended) model. Courses on the list that are highlighted in yellow are available to be offered 100% virtually. As a part of this policy, online courses are ineligible for CTE funding, unless they are being offered through a postsecondary institution. Because using NLPS courses is optional for this school year, NLPS courses may not be offered 100% virtually or online.

Our office has received several questions regarding whether credits earned in online courses count towards concentrator status and if there exists an approved list of online courses. Our current policy allows credits earned in online courses to count toward concentrator status. However, we strongly discourage the use of strictly online courses for this purpose in alignment with the Office of CTE's guiding principle around the importance of in-person CTE instruction. Our office no longer maintains an approved list of online courses. Due to the growing number of online courses, our team does not have the capacity to vet or validate each course for alignment to standards. Our office will be reviewing student outcomes of courses that are offered online over the upcoming year to determine if online course credit should be limited to only those courses that have been approved to be offered 100% virtually.

