

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2020 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Originating**

## **House Bill 4790**

BY DELEGATES ELLINGTON, HIGGINBOTHAM, ATKINSON,  
HANNA, TONEY, WAXMAN, HORNBUCKLE, CAMPBELL,  
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[Originating in the Committee on Education; Reported  
on February 6, 2020.]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-7d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to Career Technical Education for middle school students; broadening workforce  
3 preparedness information to be communicated to students to include the knowledge, skills  
4 and characteristics needed for success in occupations and entrepreneurship; integration  
5 with career exploration beginning in middle school grades; and requiring county boards to  
6 provide elective Career Technical Education courses for middle school students beginning  
7 2022 – 2023 school year.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-2-7d. Program in workforce preparedness.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that, in addition to specialized skills relating to specific  
2 professions and trades, students will be better prepared to enter the workforce and succeed in  
3 their chosen fields of employment or education by having the opportunity to participate in training  
4 related to general workforce preparedness, productive workplace skills and processes, time  
5 management and efficiency, and teamwork and leadership competencies in the workplace. The  
6 Legislature further finds that employers in the state are the best source for articulating the general  
7 skills and attributes they, in common, seek in future employees and that employers may  
8 collaborate in the development of a graduate profile incorporating these skills and attributes.

9 (b) The state board shall promulgate a rule pursuant to §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code that  
10 adopts a program of instruction in general workforce and career preparedness for all students.  
11 The program of instruction shall include guidelines for schools working through their local school  
12 improvement councils and business partners to communicate to students the ~~common skills and~~  
13 ~~attributes sought by employers in prospective employees~~ knowledge, college and career skills  
14 and life characteristics needed for success in occupations and entrepreneurship in the changing  
15 world of work. At the middle school level, the program may be integrated with comprehensive  
16 career exploration which also may include, but is not limited to, Career Technical Education

17 foundational courses, stand-alone Career Exploration courses and mini courses, field trips, quest  
18 speakers, and career mentors as provided in the state board rule.

19 (c) Beginning with the school year 2022 — 2023, county boards of education shall provide  
20 elective Career Technical Education courses for middle school students that may include, but are  
21 not limited to, foundational Career Technical Education courses, Career Technical Education  
22 courses developed with a focus on high need occupational areas within the area or region,  
23 agriculture, industrial arts and home economics.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to extend Career Technical Education into the middle school grades beginning with comprehensive career exploration including communicating to students the knowledge, college and career skills and life characteristics needed for success in occupations and entrepreneurship in the changing world of work. The bill also requires middle school electives in Career Technical Education to be offered beginning with the 2022 – 2023 school year.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.