

Texas Association of Workforce Boards

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August 21, 2009

The Honorable Florence Shapiro
The Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Senator Shapiro:

The Texas Association of Workforce Boards (TAWB) supports the position of the Texas Coalition for a Competitive Workforce, regarding credit for Career and Technical Education. Further, we recognize the need for all students to be proficient in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies in order to integrate their career skills into meaningful social and commercial context.

As workforce boards, we see daily the results of curriculum that students do not perceive as relevant. As a result, many students drop out of school believing they can get a job without completing their high school education. To reverse this trend and prepare the majority of students for the majority of jobs today, *those that do not require a college degree*, we must introduce curriculum in relevant terms. TAWB fully recognizes that relevant Career and Technology Education courses are valuable preparation for the world of work.

TAWB has long held that students should achieve the same basic academic skills whether training for technical jobs or pursuing other traditional post-secondary education. For example, technical jobs require proficiency in reading for an understanding of technical manuals, plus math and problem solving skills afforded by high school math curriculum. These academic requirements are integrated into Career and Technology course curriculum, providing the student with meaningful skills in an engaging learning environment.

Finally, TAWB fully supports that 4x4 course requirements be flexible. As the business leaders charged with providing Texas employers with a skilled and ready workforce, we believe that courses leading to industry credentialing, licensure or college credits will not only advance individual prosperity and meet employers' needs, but will enhance overall economic growth in our state by affording us the talent to compete in a global economy.

Sincerely,

Tyane Dietz, Chair
Texas Association of Workforce Boards

cc: Workforce Development Board Members