

## Checking Back on Task Force Recommendations— For Discussion

*From April 13, 2009 discussions:*

1. Consider a definition of career concentration that integrates both academic and CTE/occupational courses with sufficient flexibility to address students' interests in a variety of ways.

- Fulfill three (3) credits of career concentration courses by taking: CTE courses; credited, work-based learning experiences; approved independent study, and/or general education courses that prepare students for postsecondary education based on their identified program of study in their high school and beyond plan. One of the three credits should meet the standards of an exploratory CTE course.

### **Advantages:**

- Provides sufficient flexibility to address different students' needs
- Retains core (employability and leadership skills) of occupational education requirement
- Connects High School and Beyond Plan with course selection

### **Disadvantages:**

- Relies on a HS&B planning process that may not exist yet in some schools

***Would you change or add anything to this recommendation, or the listed advantages or disadvantages?***

2. Consider implementing a "2 for 1" or "Credit Plus" policy that would enable students taking classes formally identified as course equivalents to document the academic credit on the transcript and satisfy a CTE requirement at the same time, thereby creating space for an additional elective.

### **Advantages:**

- Provides greater flexibility for students to take other courses they need or want to take

- Provides greater flexibility for students in skills centers
- Will encourage districts to establish course equivalencies, and the process of collaboration among teachers to establish equivalencies could contribute to professional learning communities

**Disadvantages:**

- Without clear state parameters, the policy could be interpreted inconsistently across districts and make it difficult for students to transfer credits across schools
- Would require changes to standardized transcript

***Would you change or add anything to this recommendation, or the listed advantages or disadvantages?***

*3. Is there any other recommendation pertaining generally to the career concentration requirement, or to particular issues associated with skills centers or CTE that you want to put forward?*