Secondary Transition Capacity-Building Conference

April 24, 2013
Task Force for the Integration of College and Career Readiness

- **November 29, 2011** – The Board of Elementary and Secondary Education asked Board member Gerald Chertavian to chair a task force to develop recommendations on better integrating college and career readiness into K-12 education.
- **January through May 2012** – The Task Force for the Integration of College and Career Readiness chaired by Gerald Chertavian was convened.
- **June 26, 2012** – Task Force members present the ICCR Task Force report and recommendations. Board adopts the report and recommendations and charges the Department to map a path forward.
- **October 23, 2012** – The Department's response.
The Context We Operate In
In the face of increasing demand for skilled workers, our human capital pipeline is not aligned..

54% of young college grads unemployed or underemployed

3.4 million jobs vacant

Source: "Half of Recent College Grads Underemployed or Jobless, Analysis Says," Cleveland.com 23 April 2012
These crises disproportionately affect our young people.
We have a lot to be proud of in Massachusetts but we are still not preparing our students for multiple pathways to success.

Massachusetts 4th and 8th graders topped the nation in reading and math on the NAEP exam for the fourth consecutive exam year and outranked most countries on the TIMMS exams.

But...

Too many Massachusetts high school graduates still need remediation:
- Of Massachusetts graduates who attended Massachusetts public colleges, 37% enrolled in at least one remedial subject during their first semester.
- At community colleges, 65% enrolled in remedial courses.

And...

Most students are working, or trying to work, their way through college:
- Among all American college students, only 25% attend full-time, four-year residential schools.
- The average student at UMass Boston student works 30 hours per week.

Sources: Massachusetts Department of ESE; Center for Labor Market Studies, NU; and Complete College America.
To start, we defined Career Readiness, gaining clarity and a common language.
We agreed on a long term vision and policy priority for Massachusetts

The Task Force encourages the Board to vote to make the creation of comprehensive state-wide system with structured, aligned, and strategic partnerships that support students’ fluid movement through elementary, secondary, and higher education into successful careers a key long-term and sustained policy priority, with specific and measurable goals over the next 5 years.
Recommendations
I. Incorporate Career Readiness into Massachusetts’s Recommended Course of Study

- **MassCore**: Through a Board approved vote, adopt and implement an expanded framework for MassCore that explicitly includes integrated career development experiences for high school students

- **Standards and Assessments**: ESE should develop targeted career readiness Standards and Assessments to present to the Board within 6-8 months for review
II. Strengthen School, Employer, Higher Education, and Community Partnerships

- Effective Employer and Community Engagement: Increase stakeholder engagement by expanding opportunities and strengthening state-wide coordination amongst schools, employers, and intermediaries.
  
  ▪ Develop an **Employer Champion** group committed to organizing state-wide employer participation in career readiness programs
  
  ▪ Create and publicize a **toolkit** and **menu of opportunities** for employers, parents, schools, and other stakeholders.
  
  ▪ **Increase volunteer, parental, and family involvement** by developing multiple opportunities to access information.
  
  ▪ Maintain a **state-wide database** of the opportunities available to employers and schools
  
  ▪ Expand capacity for school to career **Connecting Activities**
II. Strengthen School, Employer, Higher Education, and Community Partnerships (cont.)

- Utilization of a Uniform Technology Application: Increase adoption and utilization of YourPlanForTheFuture
  - With a uniform technology application, employers can identify specific skills needed and assess potential candidate pools to support their future human capital needs
III. Improve the Utilization of School Counselors in Deployment of Career Readiness Education

- **MA Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs:** Collaborate with MASCA to support and expand the use of the MA Model in order to repurpose the role of school counselors and position them as a primary resource to lead students in college and career readiness.

- **College and Career Plans:** Support the passing of Massachusetts Bill H.3931 - An act establishing six-year career plans for all Massachusetts public school students.
IV. Incentivize Schools to Create/Demonstrate Comprehensive Career Readiness Strategies

- **Incentive Grants**: Create and manage the deployment of 10 planning and implementation grants to incent schools to develop cohesive career readiness strategies that:
  - engage employers and stakeholders
  - increase the availability of career readiness programs for students

- **Pathways to Prosperity Initiative**: Support Massachusetts’s continued involvement in the Pathways to Prosperity Initiative and the short-term development of 3 pilot Multiple Pathway programs

Recommendations
V. Promote the Importance of College and Career Readiness for All Students

- **Future Ready MA Campaign**: Utilize the Future Ready Campaign to build public awareness about what it takes for all students to graduate ready for successful careers and post-secondary education.

- **State-Wide Convening**: Create momentum for the explicit and ongoing focus on integrated career readiness education by holding a state-wide convening that:
  - highlights the work currently underway in the Commonwealth
  - creates a forum for launching the vision and strategic recommendations outlined by the task force
VI. Explicitly Identify Personnel Responsible for Effectively Executing Task Force Recommendations

- **ESE Staff and Resource Capacity:** Identify or (if necessary) increase staff and resource capacity and hold accountable for:
  - executing internal actions related to the recommendations
  - supporting increased coordination within the existing state-wide infrastructure

- **Advisory Group:** Call for the creation of an Advisory Group comprised of 8-10 leaders in the Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, and Business sectors that will:
  - steward the ongoing execution of the cross-sector recommendations
  - continue to strengthen the necessary state-wide collaboration effort
Looking Forward
Every child deserves an education that nurtures their dreams and points the way forward

- These recommendations will complement the Commonwealth’s ongoing efforts to maintain and refine high standards that prepare our students for successful post-secondary pursuits by:
  - guiding students towards meaningful, high wage careers in STEM fields
  - providing the necessary relevancy to their studies to keep them interested and engaged

- BESE adopted the Report and recommendations to make the creation of the system outlined by the Task Force a policy priority over the next five years
Resources for Transition Programs
Collaboration: Transition Programs + Connecting Activities

- Developing employer relationships and sharing resources.

- Participation of all students in internship programs, with placements tailored to students’ interests and career goals.

- Participation of all students in summer jobs, school-based enterprises and community service programs – often groups of 10-20 students in a workplace setting. Settings range from everyday settings like parks and schools to more specialized projects like a bike repair program, auto detailing project, school-based cafés or restaurants or other projects.
The Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan

- Available as online database screens, pen/paper or Microsoft Word.

- Go to http://skillspages.com/masswbl to download copies or learn more about the database.

- Connect with the Connecting Activities staff person in your school or region or email jleonard@skillslibrary.com to obtain a username/password for the database.
The Contextual Learning Portal

- A collection of Contextual Learning Projects – classroom and out-of-school time projects that connect academic learning with real-life contexts in the school, workplace and community.

- Projects support career development through the application of skills and the exploration of community, workplace and career-related themes.

- Use the portal to learn about approaches to contextual learning, get specific project ideas and contribute your own projects.

- Go to http://resources21.org/cl
Connecting Activities developed a one-page overview of the Work-Based Learning Plan in transition programs (available in the red folder) and a companion page of online resources. These resources are intended as useful for transition coordinators and for Connecting Activities staff who are working with transition programs.

The resource page is available from the resources21.org website and/or the skillspages.com website.

Or go directly to:  http://resources21.org/transitionworkexp/