

# MADISON COUNTY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Kaleb Smith  
System Director

Senate Executive-January 10, 2021 11 am

Kaleb Smith Madison County Career and Technical Education (CTE) System Director, and President of Illinois Career and Technical Administrators.

I am contacting you **with a neutral position to the bill, but I do have specific concerns** for the following components of Senate Amendment 2 of HB 2170.

The current amendment puts in place the following items, that I believe will have a detrimental impact on the access to CTE for students and the funding for CTE in Southern Illinois and across the state.

- pg. 46, #6, Graduation requirement increase to 2 years of foreign language. - Loss of CTE opportunities for students across the state.
  - It is currently a struggle for students to find time in their schedule to participate in CTE programs, due to the current graduation requirements. The additional foreign language requirement will only add to that struggle and close the many high-quality career pathway opportunities to our students who would benefit the most from these programs.
- pg. 61-62, a & b, Computer Science requirement
  - Additional course and graduation unfunded requirements place a financial burden on school districts, and again, additional course and graduation requirements limit students' access to CTE courses that meet their individual needs and career path.
- pg. 168, Technical Academies
  - This bill creates the designation of a "Technical Academy" which appears to be a non-public school entity that would offer joint CTE programs. Our area and several others currently have access to Area Career Centers and CTE cooperatives, which are public entities, that are accountable to their local school districts. The Career Centers and cooperatives offer joint CTE programs to participating school districts. These programs and all other CTE programs across the state are funded by federal and state CTE grants. The creation of "Technical Academies" will at best duplicate services and has the potential to pull substantial funding from current CTE programs. This will do permanent damage to our CTE programs and cause a loss of opportunities and services to our students.
- pg. 169-170, Sec. 7.5 Determination of jointly-administered CTE programs
  - This section of legislation outlines additional requirements for CTE programs providing more restrictions and in-flexibility to provide programs that meet students' needs. Perkins V legislation and the Illinois state CTE plan were just approved last year and already outline rigorous requirements for approved CTE programs. This legislation potentially contradicts both of those items and puts Illinois at risk of being unaligned to the Federal Perkins V Act and potentially putting millions of dollars of funding in jeopardy.

Thank you again for your continued support of CTE, and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if there is any additional information I can provide.

For more information please contact Kaleb Smith, Madison County CTE Director, ICTA President  
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