



Danya Labban
Auditor General

November 22, 2021

Mr. Kenrick Sifontes
Audit Director
Office of the State Comptroller
Division of State Government Accountability
123 William Street
New York, NY 10038

Re: Status Update on Recommendations in the OSC's Audit Report of the DOE's Career and Technical Education (2019-N-4)

Dear Mr. Sifontes:

This letter constitutes the New York City Department of Education's (DOE) status update on recommendations made by the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) on the DOE's Career and Technical Education (CTE).

The DOE is providing the following update on the status of these recommendations:

- 1. Evaluate whether CTE programs offered at the schools align with high-demand or high-growth occupations through collaborative interactions and planning with school officials and other stakeholders.***

The DOE continues to work with the Labor Market Information Service to develop labor market data reports and tools to support current and developing CTE programs to align with high-demand or high-growth occupations more strongly. These reports and tools will be used by the industry advisory commission and discussed during its meetings. The DOE has also completed a comprehensive local needs assessment and an off-year needs assessment in accordance with the Perkins legislation to evaluate the labor market alignment of all 204 NYSED approved programs.

Date of Implementation: This evaluation is ongoing and now part of a biennial process in connection with the Perkins mandated Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA).

2. Revise admission program priorities and eligibility requirements to grant all City students a fair and equal opportunity to apply and gain acceptance to the CTE programs of their choice.

All admissions priorities and eligibilities based on catchment areas, districts, and boroughs were eliminated over the course of the last two school years.

Date of Implementation: These priorities are being phased out over two years but will be completely eliminated by fall 2022.

3. Conduct an analysis to determine whether the number of CTE programs can be increased.

As a result of the pandemic, the DOE has experienced significant CTE staffing shortages which may lead to a reduction in the number of CTE programs during the 2021-22 school year. The DOE will continue to evaluate programs, provide labor market information and industry partner guidance to support Principals and their school communities to make informed decisions regarding in-demand program areas.

Date of Implementation: Not applicable.

4. Develop a process to capture and report post-secondary placement data per SED's guidelines.

The DOE's process to capture and report post-high school placement data in compliance with SED's guidelines was first conducted in SY2020-21. Survey responses are collected and matched to the CTE concentrators to develop the data reporting form and reviewed for accuracy prior to submission to NYSED CTE.

Date of Implementation: October 2020.

5. Review placement data submitted by schools prior to submission to SED to ensure overall accuracy and completeness.

The DOE reviews placement data to ensure accuracy and completeness and adherence to federal and state guidelines. See response above for further details.

Date of Implementation: Reporting period for school year 2020-2021.

6. Meet with other large school districts in the State to discuss challenges and best practices for collecting post-secondary placement data from students.

The DOE has attended the Big 5 meetings, led by the New York State CTE Technical Assistance Center, where the largest state urban school districts and BOCES convene. During these meetings the

challenges and best practices have been shared regarding data collection for the Post Placement survey.

Date of Implementation: First meeting on September 24, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danya Labban". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Danya" being more prominent than the last name "Labban".

Danya Labban
Auditor General