

Jennifer Wieberg, College and Career Counselor Proponent in Person HB2631

Date: 3/8/2022

Subject: Proponent & Supporter for HB2631 with the Short Title "Career technical education credential and transition incentive for employment success act; providing state aid to school districts for students obtaining a credential; establishing the career technical education credential and transition incentive fund." http://www.kslegislature.org/li/b2021_22/measures/hb2631/

Who: Jennifer Wieberg, Deerfield HS 803 Beech Street

Short Statement: Hello, I am Jennifer Wieberg and I am currently the college and career counselor for Deerfield School. I have been in this position since last year but have been in Deerfield for 8 years and in education for 15 years. In this new position I focus on career exploration in elementary school career and pathway awareness in middle school and pathway completion, certification, post-secondary plans for all students. I meet with student individually and their parent to discuss what is in the student's best interest in taking classes, earning certifications, and dual credit classes to prepare them for life outside of high school. I take the term and plan of study very seriously and work closely with instructors, industry partners and colleges to do what is best for the student.

It is important to understand that with each student a certification means and its purpose is for different paths in their lives. I have student earning certifications in high school so that they can get better paying jobs while they attend college so that leave with less college loan debt. I have student seeking certifications to help acquire jobs straight of high school that give them a leg up in the interviewing process. I also have students earning certifications so that they can skills that will help in life and a multitude of jobs as they are unsure of their path right now.

Small schools run on a tight budget and we are blessed with amazing staff, students and administration that have worked hard to get students with individualized plans and a goal for when they graduate no matter what the path. The ability to pay for these certifications come from other sources so we are taking money from other places to make sure our students have what they need when they leave here to be successful. If we were able to not have to do that the money from our CTE funding could be used for the upgrades and replacements we need each year for our pathways. We are growing school, every student matters and any assistance we get to help make sure these students get meaningful certifications would make an impact in life of a student, no matter their path.

Thanks!