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Idaho Technical Career Academy

2017-18 Strategic Plan

Mission

ITCA is a virtual career-technical education charter school that provides an occupational sequence of instruction that will prepare Idaho students to obtain the necessary technical skills needed to succeed.

Vision

To create a virtual career-technical education charter school which will provide an appropriately sequenced curriculum that will equip the student with the foundational academic and technical skills to enable them to pursue post-secondary education, achieve occupational certifications, or enter directly into the work force.

The school's focus on career-technical education will:

- Provide an alternative to academic virtual schools
- Provide career pathways to students who are:
 - Geographically Dispersed
 - Academically Deficient
 - At Risk and Underserved
- Provide Idaho industries with educated and employment ready individuals.

Goals

- ITCA students will be proficient in the core academic subjects of reading, language arts, and math.
- ITCA students will achieve career-technical occupational proficiency based on industry standards.
- ITCA will provide online instruction in the core and technical subjects.
- ITCA students will achieve academic growth necessary to reach proficiency and will be provided with additional academic support services.

Design Elements

The School shall implement and maintain the following essential design elements of its educational program:

- Provide academic core curriculum aligned to state standards
- Provide a sequence of instruction in career-technical pathways
 - A pathway is a three-year sequence of focused coursework in a particular career cluster
 - All students will be continually enrolled in career technical coursework
- Place each student with an advisory teacher
- Foster industry involvement

Executive Summary

Essential to any successful society is an educated and trained workforce. Within the U.S. however, there is growing evidence of a “skills gap” in which many young adults lack the skills needed for high demand, high skilled, high wage jobs. Economic reports estimate that about half of the jobs that will be available in the coming years will require technical education and training. Most of these skills can be obtained with advance technical courses in high school or technical certificates or two year degrees from technical colleges.

In order to meet the labor needs of Idaho business and industries, the Idaho Technical Career Academy (ITCA) board intends to create a quality virtual charter school that uses technology to connect academically at risk, underserved, or geographically dispersed students in Idaho in a 21st century learning community focused on academic and technical results. The ITCA team of highly qualified staff, in collaborating with parents and business and industry representatives, will strive for student mastery of a rigorous, research-based curriculum aligned to Idaho academic and technical standards. This unique program will put public school accountability, teacher competence, and meaningful parent/adult involvement at the center of student learning.

ITCA will provide a high-quality, innovative, and effective individualized virtual charter school education to students who, for a variety of reasons, choose to be, or must be, educated in a virtual school setting.

ITCA course offerings will allow students to explore and focus on occupations of interest. These programs will have the capacity to enrich a student’s educational experience while maximizing their ability to be successful within the community and work force. Successful completion of these courses will:

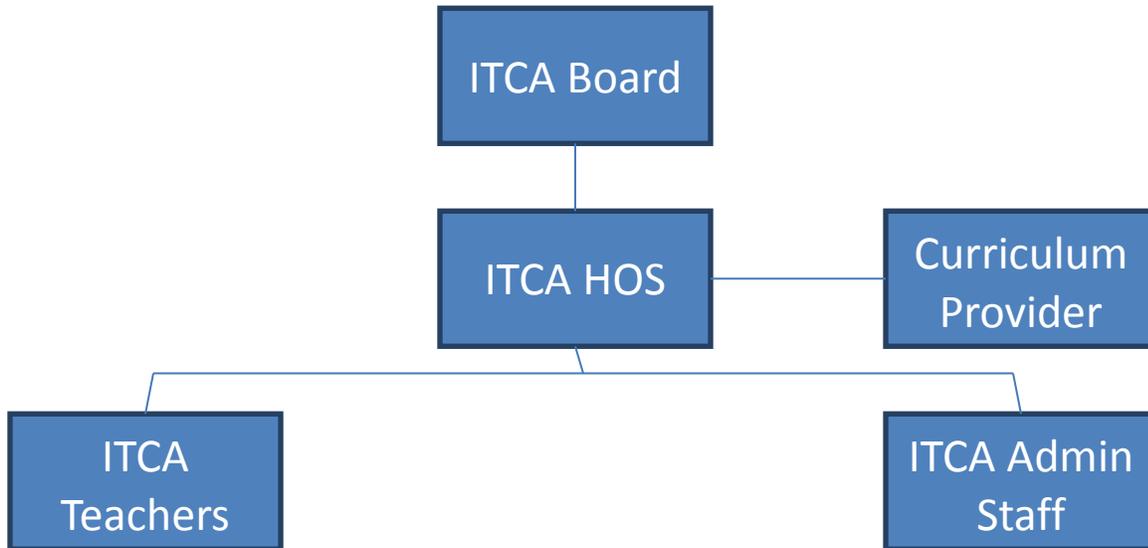
- Provide students the foundation to be successful in pursuing post-secondary occupational certifications
- Provide the career and technical skills required to be marketable in Idaho business and Industry
- Provide work skills required to be successful on the job.

To guide students towards academic success, ITCA will require all students to attend an enrollment meeting that will include the creation of an Individualized Learning Plan (ILP). Through development of the ILP and counseling, students will create a path towards graduation and post-secondary or career options.

Hurst, Dustin. “Idaho businessmen warn of looming worker shortage.” *IdahoReporter.com*. 26 Jan. 2010. Web. 5 Sept. 2013. <http://www.idahoreporter.com/2010/idaho-businessmen-warn-of-looming-worker-shortage/>

NewsUSA. “Tradesman Shortage Looms.” *NewsUSA@NewsUSA.com*. 7 Aug. 2013. Web. 5 Sept. 2013. http://www.idahostatejournal.com/vac/business_and_careers/article_24d7a690-1a45-54ff-a439-4eefe1230345.html

J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation. “Skills Gap Data and Reports” Jan. 2012. Web. 5 Sept. 2013 <http://www.jkaf.org/pdfs/JKAF-Skills-Gap-Data-Full-Packet.pdf>



Scoring

Charter Specific/Mission goals support Idaho Career-Technical Skill Assessment program by having students complete the CTECS Workplace Readiness Assessment (WRA).

All seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course are required to take the Workplace Readiness Assessment.

Exceed Standards: 80% and above of all seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course meet the standard of mastery on the Workplace Readiness Assessment.

Meet Standards: 70% to 79% of all seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course meet the standard of mastery on the Workplace Readiness Assessment.

Does Not Meet Standards: 50% to 69% of all seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course meet the standard of mastery on the Workplace Readiness Assessment.

Falls Far Below Standards: less than 50% of all seniors enrolled in at least their second CTE course meet the standard of mastery on the Workplace Readiness Assessment.