

Name of Organization: Elk Grove Unified School District
Project Name: Career Technical Education
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Describe the Project

The Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) serves a richly-diverse student population in Sacramento County, California. EGUSD is the fifth largest school district in California with over 61,200 students. The district believes that Career Technical Education (CTE) must be an integral element within the district’s comprehensive high schools. The district recognizes that the 21st century’s global economy demands that students graduate with the skills to be prepared to enter the workforce or to be successful in post-secondary education.

In recognition of the importance of career technical education, the district has invested leadership, funding, and human capital into the development and expansion of academies, career pathways, and Regional Occupation Programs (ROP). Over the last three years, the district has added academies in the career fields of public safety, computer-assisted drafting, sports medicine and green technology. EGUSD has taken a lead in developing green technology CTE programs and exploring ways to further expand the existing School of Technology, Engineering and Media (STEM).

Furthermore, the district is committed to ensuring that its academies and pathways integrate seamlessly with the existing curriculum and course offerings. EGUSD’s CTE programs prepare students for a hyper-competitive, technically-sophisticated global economy.

Describe Implementation

The superintendent, working collaboratively with the Board of Education and other colleagues, has identified four areas of work surrounding Career Technical Education.

- The first is to provide support to the existing academies to ensure that they stay on the cutting edge in their educational delivery, as well as incorporate emerging new technologies in their commensurate areas of focus.
- The second area of work is to design and implement new academies and pathways to meet future needs.
- The third area of work is to explore and incubate funding and funding sources necessary to support the desired expansion of career technical education.
- The fourth area of work is to continue to cultivate and embrace businesses, community members, higher-education partners and other allied partners within the community who are absolutely vital to the expansion of career technology.

Describe Implementation (continued)

Imbedded in each of these areas of work are significant elements that help ensure success. For example, in work area one, the district implemented national certification of our academies. EGUSD is the only district in California to nationally certify its academies. This extensive process validates the on-going work of our career technical academies and reinforces their success. The national certification rubric provides attention to implementation and the metrics that are used to determine program and student success. Using national standards also allows those academies, which successfully complete the accreditation process in the district, to “hang their shingle” and to be recognized as a true academy.

In the second area of work, our district remains vigilant to the emerging industry sectors, which have promising workforce needs to meet the growing global economy. By tapping into economic forecasts, regional workforce development, and state and national workforce trends, our colleagues identify future academies to meet those demands. One of our newest academies was recognized at the recent California Partnership Academies Conference as the first green technology academy in the state to be focused on energy. Professional educators, administrators, higher education and business partners came together to design a curriculum that engages students in a variety of projects that also allows students to meet their high school graduation requirements and be successful in post-secondary education.

Through the third area of work, the district constantly explores grant opportunities and takes advantage of state-funded grant initiatives. Securing funding is an ongoing effort. EGUSD seeks to build relationships with outside funders who recognize the importance of, and the relevance of, expanding career technical education programs.

The fourth area of work is the collaboration to build partnerships. For example, California State University, Sacramento, University of California at Davis, and Cosumnes River Community College partner with the district to ensure rigor and articulation of programs. Through this partnership, these higher education institutions provide professional development for EGUSD teachers and students. EGUSD also collaborates with private partnerships such as the Ford Foundation, which has recently named the district a training hub for Ford Partnership for Advanced Studies (PAS) curriculum for the western states.

Other business partners include the California Department of Health, Microsoft and the California Department of Education (CDE). Through the California Department of Health, students are able to become certified phlebotomists, while Microsoft offers EGUSD students the opportunity to become certified Microsoft technicians. The district’s partnership with CDE and California’s legislators allow the district to provide insight and support at the state level that is conducive to the expansion of career technical education.

Share Success Metrics, Efficacy Data, etc.

- EGUSD has 15 academies and 5 career pathways and continues to add new CTE programs each year.
- EGUSD ROP classes serve as industry focused courses, offering certifications in Computer Business/Computer Technician Service and Repair, Electrocardiogram (EKG), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Phlebotomy and other fields.
- Career academy students stay in the CTE programs and graduate from high school. For example, in 2008, 99 percent of EGUSD's academy students graduated from high school. Only 2 percent leave the academies during high school.
- Academy students pass the California High School Exit Exam Math and English Language exams at a higher rate (96 percent) than the general student population.
- EGUSD career academy programs have created Accelerated College Entrance (ACE) articulations. These articulations afford students the opportunity to graduate and enroll in California State University, Sacramento, with college credits prior to actually attending college. Students may earn up to nine college credits while enrolled in high school.