

Brighton School District 27J

BACKGROUND

Brighton School District 27J has used its Perkins funding to: implement the national "Math-in-CTE" model; update equipment; sponsor hands-on learning ventures; permit professional development; and, provide students exposure to career opportunities.

KEY INNOVATION(S)

Six CTE teachers were paired with five Math teachers to participate in five days training on how to implement the national "Math in CTE" model to strengthen the Math aptitude of our nation's students via the many hands-on math opportunities in CTE. This group has received five days this school year to implement some of their plans. Specifically, Brighton CTE teachers reviewed their curriculum in Welding, Construction, Business, and Marketing courses with their academic Math colleagues to bring out existing math competencies, assess the vocabulary, and create eight "CTE math" lessons. These Math in CTE lessons are being published for all CTE and Math teachers in Colorado to share.

The District has created an 8th grade "Career Fair for Adams County" program in which students are required to choose the "Plans of Study" and visit with employers about their career interests.

The District's Welding Teacher and facility at Prairie View High School is shared with Front Range Community college in close collaboration. This has been a win-win situation, providing over ten District high school students with the opportunity to take Welding for dual credit from the college and toward their diploma.

Additionally, Welding students had the opportunity to build a new welding trailer which is enabling them to provide the Brighton community with portable welding services while permitting them to do portable projects (e.g., fixing metal signage at the entrance of the community). The students also built a Portable Smoker Trailer which has provided even more community exposure to its excellent welding program.

Finally, another hands-on opportunity the students received occurred when the Construction/CAD program found it needed office space. The program creatively solved the problem by having its students design and build the needed office.

KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

The District has a very stable group of quality CTE teachers with low turnover. Further, the District has great facilities at their new Prairie View High School. The District is looking to partner more with Front Range Community College and is pleased the college is opening a new campus in Brighton which will help facilitate this.

District Perkins funding has kept Career and Technical Student Organizations strong by furnishing Professional Development opportunities for teachers to attend: Colorado Marketing Education Association gatherings plus functions for FFA, FBLA, DECA and SkillsUSA. Professional Development also occurred via attendance at Colorado Association of Career and Technical Education meetings.

RESULTS

[See Math-in-CTE, Welding and CAD bullets in KEY INNOVATIONS section].

The District has used Perkins funding to ensure students continue to acquire high skills training on up-to-date equipment. Specifically, equipment has been upgraded in its Auto service, Horticulture, Welding, Child Development and Catering programs.

Last year, the District encouraged 900 of its 8th grade students to attend the Adams County Career Fair.

Additionally, last year, Welding I students honed their skills while helping their community by creating ornamental hand rails for a local senior citizen center.

Also, 250 students attended a presentation at Brighton High School from the Vestas wind-power turbine manufacturing company. Several plan to visit the new Vestas' manufacturing facility in Brighton. Students also learned about the Multi Industry Systems Technician program that Aims Community College is offering and five students enrolled in it.

Remarkably, two-thirds of the District's graduating welding students are placed into jobs and postsecondary welding education!