

Douglas County School District

(Chaparral High School)

BACKGROUND

The Douglas County School District's Chaparral High School (Chaparral) is using Perkins funds to acquire and upgrade technology to enhance the quality of its CTE programs.

KEY INNOVATION(S)

Extending laptop access to all Marketing students has been a strategy Chaparral has deployed to improve this program. DECA/Marketing students use their laptops to sell advertising for the special events held at Chaparral throughout the year. Ad revenue is used to fund participation in student leadership conferences as well as donations to charitable institutions.

In addition to updating its baby simulators to increase realism, Chaparral has built sim-baby storage units and car seats which have not only enhanced the learning experience for students but has enabled the faculty to focus more on curriculum delivery.

Chaparral has partnered with its local community college (Arapahoe Community College) to create its "College Ready" program which enables CTE students to earn college credit while in high school. This program is slated to expand further in the coming year.

KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

Chaparral's focus on sustaining access to newer technology has elevated the quality of its CTE programs.

Chaparral has structured its class fee requirements to ensure participation in DECA. This has had powerful results (see results section).

As previously stated, Chaparral generates funding for its Career and Technical Organizational leaders to participate in leadership conferences via ad sales.

Current graduation requirements have encouraged CTE participation, the District needs to be cognizant of this if it is to make any changes.

Chaparral's ability to rely on CTE-trained administrators has helped sustain its programs. Economic pressures may change the availability of such staff.

RESULTS

While limited computer availability used to impede the ability of students to get the most out of the Marketing curriculum, using Perkins funding to provide every student in the program with a laptop has greatly improved program quality.

Chaparral believes technological access and its system of required-fees has led to the participation rate of its Marketing students in DECA to hit 100 percent.

Finally, a focus on a rich learning experience driven by technology may be responsible for Male enrollment growth being experienced in Chaparral's Early Childhood Education program.