

HB 406 -- CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION DIPLOMAS

SPONSOR: Gannon

This bill requires the State Board of Education within the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education (CTE) high school diploma that students entering high school in the 2016-17 school year and thereafter must be eligible to earn. A CTE diploma must be a high school graduation diploma that confers the same benefits for students that are conferred by any other high school diploma meeting graduation requirements established by the state board.

A CTE diploma must be based on requirements designed to provide students with technical skills and core academic skills and must demonstrate that the student is ready for a career in a technical field. Curriculum, programs of study, and course offerings must be determined by the local school district based on the needs and interests of the students in the district. The state board must work in cooperation with individual school districts to stipulate the minimum number of vocational offerings per district, with the goal of establishing a minimum offering of six vocational areas of study in each district.

An effort must be made by the local district to offer programs of study relating to as many vocational career paths as economically feasible to students in the district. In establishing curriculum requirements, the district may incorporate standards for industry-recognized certifications.