



Public Announcement

Can be adapted for press release and for posting on BOCES and district web sites.

The Franklin-Essex-Hamilton (FEH) BOCES is proud to announce that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has awarded the FEH BOCES and ten partnering school districts a highly competitive Program Development Grant to build local capacity to prepare students with disabilities to leave high school with work readiness skills. By selecting the FEH BOCES grant proposal, the State Education Department recognizes the need to prepare students with disabilities for meaningful employment and community involvement, and recognizes the applicants' commitment to high quality educational programs and services for students with disabilities and their families.

The three year project will enable the districts to increase students with disabilities' access to career and technical education coursework, participation in work-based learning opportunities, and instruction in the Career Development and Occupational Studies (CDOS) Learning Standards. These program developments will help students with disabilities fulfill the requirements of the CDOS Commencement Credential. This credential is awarded by the school district in recognition of an individual student's preparation and skills for post-school employment. The participating school districts are Brushton-Moira, Chateauguay, Malone, Raquette Lake, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake, Lake Placid, Long Lake, St. Regis, and Salmon River.

To be awarded the CDOS Commencement Credential, a high school student with disabilities must:

- Develop a Career Plan that lays out the Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework and work-based learning experiences the student will undertake to achieve his or her personal career goals;
- Demonstrate the achievement of CDOS Learning Standards in career exploration and development, integrated learning (how academic learning is applied in the workplace), and universal foundation skills (the competencies essential for success in the workplace);
- Complete at least 216 hours of CTE coursework and work-based learning experience; and
- Have an Employability Profile that documents the student's achievements in fulfilling the first three requirements, showing potential employers the exiting student's preparation for employment.

Project leaders will conduct public meetings at the two BOCES Education Centers at the beginning of the project to explain the project and inform parents and communities about the CDOS Commencement Credential that is already being awarded. These meetings will be held each year of the project to gather public comment on project components and to build understanding of the CDOS Commencement Credential. These meetings will also be an opportunity to promote high school diplomas in addition to the Credential and to build public perception of the Credential and the Employability Profile as the entry point to employment opportunities. Each meeting will explain planned additions and improvements to the individual planning and instructional programs of the BOCES and the districts to enable students with disabilities to leave school prepared for beginning employment and further learning.

