

**OHIO ASSOCIATION OF CAREER TECHNICAL
SUPERINTENDENTS**

**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Gary Cates, Chairman**

House Bill 1

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Presented by:

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Chairman Cates, and Members of the Committee, my name is John Villers and I am the Director of Adult Education at Upper Valley JVS. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide an overview of adult education programming as provided by the forty nine (49) career-technical school districts.

Background on Adult Education at Career Centers

What we call career technical school districts today was originally created as Joint Vocational School Districts (JVSDs). There are 49 JVSDs located throughout Ohio. These are public schools whose districts provide quality career-technical programming to their associated comprehensive school districts. JVSDs were statutorily created in the late 1960s as a community resource center providing education to high school students during the day and training or re-training adults in the evening. This shared use concept remains not only a viable option but is what the community continues to expect. Our facilities are generally open and utilized for education and instruction 14 hours a day.

Recognize the Impact of Adult Workforce Education On Economic Development

Today, Ohio's adult workforce education programs serve individuals looking for skills to keep their jobs or to find new jobs. We also work closely with community businesses to customize training for existing workers. Last year, we trained 18,657 Career Development or full-time students, 79,333 Career Enhancement or part-time students, and 277,601 employees at 6,350 employers.

On December 22, 2008, I was contacted by a Behr representative who told me unless we were able to put a training program in place for them by January 5, 2009 they would have to lay

off 34 employees. Upper Valley JVS, in conjunction with our partner Edison Community College, was able to plan on December 23 and 24, then test the plan between Christmas and New Years, and provide Behr with training on January 5, 2009. They rated the training a huge success.

Recognize the Need to Integrate Adult Workforce Education Funding Into State Share of Instruction

To give you a quick history, adult workforce education programs were regulated and funded by the Department of Education for decades. Last General Assembly Representative Shawn Webster introduced legislation that transferred the oversight and funding of adult programs from the Department of Education to the Board of Regents. Ultimately this language was included in House Bill 119 (the last biennial budget) and Adult Workforce Development was transferred to the Ohio Board of Regents beginning January 1, 2009. The purpose for this change in oversight was so that adult programs could be more aligned with the curriculum and credit granting process employed by Ohio 2-year and 4-year institutions.

Over the last two years, both the Department of Education and the Board of Regents have prepared and planned for the transfer of these adult programs. We believe that a rapid integration plan for integration of the Adult Workforce Education within the overall educational system is critical and necessary to meet immediate needs of business and industry. Therefore, we support the current recommended time frame of OBOR to have funding for Adult Workforce Education fully integrated into the State Share of Instruction by June 1, 2010 and be included as a part of the next biennial budget.

We request that three representatives from Adult Workforce Education be assigned to work with the Chancellor to determine the formula and process for fulfilling this funding requirement.

Recognize the Increased Cost of Background Checks for Adult Workforce Education

Currently all adult education instructors are required to go through the state and federal background check process at each institution they teach for. This cost is redundant and amounts to at least \$22 for BCI and \$24 for FBI. Additionally, many adult education instructors teach in fire stations, business and industries and never teach where high school students are present.

We ask that the requirement for all adult education instructors to be background checked be changed. We ask that only adult education instructors who come into contact with high school students be background checked and that one background check be used by all school districts in the state.

Recognize the Need for Emerging Occupation Training

Currently, WIA One Stops only fund, in demand, occupation training. This policy ignores emerging occupations in fields like alternative energy, alternative fuels, advanced manufacturing, and others.

We ask that the One Stops be required to provide funding for students training in emerging occupations like those listed above. This will bring us in line with the thinking of many of our state and federal leaders.

I thank you for listening to our concerns and for working with us to help Ohioans keep their job or get back to work.

I will be happy to answer your questions.