

**Judith Andrews, State Dept of Education Visit
October 19, 2007
Work Experience Component - 09/07 CT State Dept of
Education Compliance Issues**

Compliance/Record Document for all Students -

Universal structured work based learning plan (is it expected for all Vo Ag students under State Regulations).

- 1) Organization - Job Title
- 2) Placement type - four options? Or just one
- 3) Job tasks should be aligned to established education/industry performance standards.

Three Options for Standards -

- 1) CTE Performance Standards/Competencies
State Document - 2007 Edition NOCTI, 90 page document
- 2) School to Career Industry recognized
Skill Standards - Job and Skill Requirements for entry - level workers
2000-2005 (CBIA Workplace Readiness)
- 3) Other National and/or industry recognized
Skill Standards (ABYC Standards could go here).

Dept of Labor Requirements -

- Site visits, site supervision from educators
- Regulation forms LED 31-23, LED 75-1, waiver
- Approval form unpaid work experience with instructions

State Dept of Education Requirements -

- The Cooperative Work Education Framework (Dec 2002)
- Cooperative Work Education Application Packet for Career and Technical Education Programs 2006-2007
- CT Career and Technical Education Performance Standards and Competencies 2007 Edition
- Agriculture Science and Technology Education Curriculum Framework (Draft) January 2003

The Sound School Response to Workplace SOE Guidelines

- 50% of our educational effort marine technology falls outside of the current definition of Production Agriculture. We used to have some outstanding marine trades/marina placements but a recent Vo Ag meeting confirmed that these are not "Ag," it appears that we cannot legally place these students in work situations.
- The State is increasing scrutiny of Vo Ag placements and attaching criteria for them - food service for example is no longer acceptable as an Ag placement. The Ag consultant won't even ask for DOL paperwork. It does serve a work readiness component (T. Visel).
- Cooperative placements especially around school research i.e. Yale, area Universities, DEP Lobster Project is a way to connect classroom/laboratory activities. It could be a viable way to document work/occupational experiences. We have excellent partnerships and research grants. Senior year - Summer hours still reportable for completion certificates (to Sept. 15th). Cooperative placements are one area that we plan to expand.
- Directed laboratories (summer off site and site based) and during the year site based. Can each fill about half the required hours - SOE fair this year - many positive comments. Certificates of accomplishments will be included for all DL. Trish has produced a directory of all academic year Directed Labs.
- Several students are taking Sound ISSP projects which resemble SOE placements - more student responsibility but can provide excellent portfolio documentation - credit but also SOE hours. It also fulfills the last semester special topics part of the scope and sequence. At the present time - herring run restoration, sea bass work and a turtle project. ISSP has significant written work products for grade review. Teachers have been working with students which is very much like the Vo Ag teacher advisor role. Barbara Mente is our ISSP Coordinator. This program can be expanded but needs significant teacher oversight.

- Our students work, and although it's not an official Ag placement any work experience is positive. Something that always been outside of school but not Vo Ag related. This would require a regulatory change - at present each Vo Ag student must have a supervised agricultural experience. Compromise language might include a ratio 100 work hours - 20 SOE hours recognizing the workplace "generic" standards.
- Standards Based Curriculum - We need to identify generic work place standards to see if we can still give students hours in any way for outside work. If 20% of the standards are considered "work place readiness" than 20% of outside work hours may be able to count as SOE hours - something that Trish and I will ask next week. The State may ask to see how we handle the NOCTI Standards.