



Direct Support Professionals

Industry Certification and Workforce Training Opportunities for Arkansas High School Students





- Provides a **training opportunity** to high school students
- Offers **employability and career skills development**
- Supports postsecondary education and training preparation for **special population students**
- Addresses a **workforce gap** in the community for Direct Support Professionals (DSP)
- Allows students to **earn industry credentials**
 - Certificate of Initial Proficiency
 - Certificate of Advanced Proficiency
- Follows a **nationally-developed curriculum**



About Ohio's Program

Community Career Connections Program
(C3PO)

DSP Curriculum and Certifications



National Association of Direct Support Professionals



Aligns with Existing State's CTE Programs of Study

Enhances Academic Experience for Students

- Trade and Industry
 - **Medical Professions**
- Family and Consumer Sciences
 - **Human and Social Sciences**
 - **Education Training**

Aligns with Existing State's CTE Work-Based Learning Programs

Office of Career Readiness and Work-Based Learning and Office of Special Populations

Work-Based Learning (WBL) Courses

- **Career Practicum**
 - Serve as a level 3 course in the identified programs of study
 - WBL Coordinator oversees students' experiences
- **Internship**
 - Curriculum hours count towards classroom hours
 - Extra hours count towards work hours
 - WBL Coordinator oversees students' experiences

Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) Courses

- **JAG Senior Applications**
 - Students can complete curriculum during class
- **JAG Work-based Learning**
 - JAG Specialist can assist with overseeing students' experiences

Aligns with Existing State's Efforts to Support CTE Students with Disabilities

- Perkins
- JAG
- Methods of Administration
- Advance CTE Opportunity Gap Analysis Workshops
- National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) Partnership



Potential Partners with CTE

- **Arkansas Rehabilitation Services**
Arkansas Career Development Center
- **Arkansas Transition Services**
- **Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities**

Developing a Statewide Model

Challenges and Barriers



- **Availability of in-school personnel** to oversee students in absence of WBL Coordinators and JAG Specialists
- Identifying the **source of funds for students' stipends**
- Identifying **governing DSP entity** for Arkansas
- **Medicaid age requirements** of individuals serving as DSPs

DCTE Contact Information

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