

Testimony on SB 1313

Presented by Dr. Reece Blincoe

Chair Shapiro and Honorable Committee Members: Thank you for allowing the Education/Workforce solutions committee of Brown County and myself the opportunity the time to come testify to you today on SB 1313. My past experience in education has included 6 years as a Career and Technology Director as well as 10 years as a Career and Technology Instructor.

Senate Bill 1313 addresses some long needed solutions in Career and Technology and helps strengthen our relationship with industry and workforce. I'd commend you on the following:

- Paying for certification examinations in high need, high wage, and high demand occupations.
- Grant opportunities for Universities to work with ISD's and industry in developing applied math and science alternatives to traditional math and science classes.
- Access to education and career counseling tools.
- Updating CTE courses as industry updates occur.
- Assessing the economic benefits of CTE education in a community.
- Encouraging schools to provide CTE information to all students for the purpose of establishing a personal graduation plan.

I believe the parts of SB 1313 that need further consideration are:

- Section 7.009 (e)(3) p.3 – It will be very difficult for a student to fully participate in the 4x4 as it currently exist and still be able to get in a coherent sequence of CTE courses. We must have more flexibility in this area.
- Section 28.002 (d) p. 4 – TEA has a set timeline on reviewing TEKS and timing would have to be coordinated with the THECB on these reviews.
- Section 29.190 (2)(c) p. 6 – while I commend your efforts on paying for the test, you might want to consider adding “after completing a CTE coherent sequence”.
- Section 42.154 (a)(1) p.7 – 1.35 does not cover the cost of our CTE programs.
- Section 42154 (a)(2) (A,B) p. 8 – Please clarify and look at replacing the word “Tech-prep” with Dual credit.