

Franklin County Regional Delivery System (EFE System 525)

CTE classes are offered to all students, including non-traditional and other special populations students, at all high schools within the EFE 525 region. Emphasis on recruiting students with special needs is provided when encouraging enrollment in CTE courses or programs and in joining student organizations associated with CTE programs. Per the most recent LNA data, graduation rates for CTE students continue to be higher than the overall graduation rates within local schools. The director and assistant director of EFE 525 visited each of the high schools personally in the fall 2023 school year; they met with as many CTE teachers as possible and reminded them of the importance of students acquiring industry-recognized credentials. Emphasis also was placed on the process for EFE 525 to reimburse students for testing fees incurred IF they are successful in acquiring a CTE industry certification.

CTE personnel in Franklin County schools are dedicated to making their programs the best they can be and reaching as many students as possible. They strive to offer opportunities for students from all populations to become self-sufficient by being employed in high-skill, good-income jobs for which there is demand within the region. CTE programs and career clusters are promoted to all students and, as appropriate, to their parents/guardians; these promotions/presentations are always offered in a format that is bias-free, inclusive, and nondiscriminatory. Furthermore, career guidance is provided to all potential and current CTE program of study students. In addition, students have access to a variety of appropriate support services, including tutoring support, available to ensure all students have their best opportunity to achieve success. School personnel are knowledgeable about ISBE and IDEA guidance and requirements, and all schools and the Franklin County Regional Delivery System have appropriate board policies in place and annually publish anti-discrimination policies for notification to their communities and all stakeholders.

EFE 525 does not have access to an Area Career Center; however, CTE educators consult and work closely with their local advisory boards/committees and all stakeholders to continue to stay current on employment trends through the Illinois Department of Employment Security and also the state of Illinois. The educators use occupational employment projections to guide and determine their CTE course clusters, programs of study, and course offerings. The educators utilize updated employment statistics and data from labor market reviews relevant to the Illinois workforce to analyze the data and develop plans for course offerings, curriculum, and instruction for the CTE courses and programs of study.

Not every program of study culminates in an advanced skills course that offers dual credit at this time, but this is ongoing with progress being made toward attainment. Most of EFE 525's high schools are very small and do not have the personnel or student demand for a significant number of dual credit classes in CTE programs of study. The Franklin County Regional Delivery System will continue to work with Rend





Lake College, the primary postsecondary institution for dual credit, to find creative solutions which might include more regional CTE programming.

The regional carpentry class completed community project to build cabinets and created American flags.

The Entrepreneurial Development, Growth, and Education (EDGE) regional class is very popular.



Benton Mayor Lee Messersmith is the facilitator for this innovative class, which is offered through a partnership between ROE 21 through the Franklin County Regional Delivery System (FCRDS), Rend Lake College, and the EDGE Board of Directors. Students earn both high school and college credits by completing this regional class, which is open to all Franklin County High School seniors.

Students in the EDGE class learn about entrepreneurship and more. They develop a business plan; seek funding for their businesses; and at the end of the year, they host an impressive Trade Show featuring the businesses they have built from the ground up. In addition to these activities, the EDGE students also hold at least one or two fundraisers annually to gain valuable experience and help offset expenses for the

trade show. This year's class has set the bar extremely high by hosting a rodeo. That's not some little horse-and-pony show that you might expect nine high school students to pull together in a short period of time.

This was a real Whippoorwill Company Rodeo with bareback and saddle bronc riding and all the typical rodeo events as well as vendors, a petting zoo, and food trucks! They called it Runway Rodeo as it was held at the Benton Airport. The mayors of Sesser and Benton supported the rodeo by challenging each other to see who could stay on a bucking bull the longest. They each rode a bull, and both managed to stay onboard for several seconds before being forcefully thrown to the ground. This event certainly increased interest and turnout for the rodeo! The proceeds generated from that challenge, of course, went to the EDGE project. The students did an incredible job of handling all the rodeo details from planning to executing and they exceeded their goals. They raised more than \$20,000 and made a net profit of over \$15,000. Although some of these profits will be used for the trade show this spring, the students also successfully negotiated an additional request with the EDGE Board.