

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
HELD AT THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

October 16, 2025

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:06 a.m. Thursday, October 16, 2025, at the Oklahoma Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK, and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice was properly given, and the final agenda was posted prior to 8:59 a.m. on October 15, 2025, in accordance with 25 O.S. § 311(9).

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education present and all appeared in person:

- Mr. Lindel Fields, superintendent of public instruction and chair of the board
- Mr. Brent Haken, state director, ex-officio nonvoting member
- Mr. Brian Bobek, Oklahoma City
- Mr. Michael Brown, Lawton
- Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
- Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh
- Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa
- Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris

Members of the State Board of Career and Technology Education who were absent:

- Mr. Peter Dillingham, Enid
- Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa

Attendees from the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education and other guests:

See Attachment A.

1.01 CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Superintendent Fields called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m., and Ms. Ashley Rink called the roll and ascertained there was a quorum.

**1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG
AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Led by Superintendent Fields.

1.03 OPENING COMMENTS

Superintendent Lindel Fields welcomed attendees and introduced Dr. Dan Hamlin, Tara Thompson, Dr. Romel Muex-Pullen, and Kristen Stephens. He also acknowledged Director Brent Haken and expressed support for the CareerTech budget recommendation.

No action was taken.

1.04 DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Director Brent Haken provided updates to the Board. He highlighted upcoming travel to Germany to study apprenticeship models, noted continued growth in K-12 CareerTech partnerships, and provided information regarding the November Board meeting and the potential Tinker Tech tour. He also mentioned staff presentations scheduled later in the meeting.

No action was taken.

1.05 CEREMONIAL OATH OF OFFICE ADMINISTERED TO MR. BRIAN BOBEK, FOR AN UNEXPIRED TERM ENDING APRIL 1, 2029, REPLACING MR. ZACHARY D. ARCHER

State Director Brent Haken administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Brian Bobek, welcoming him back to the state board.

No action was taken.

1.06 MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 29, 2025, SPECIAL MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Randy Gilbert and seconded by Mr. Leonard McCullough to approve the minutes of the September 29, 2025, special meeting.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, abstain
Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Superintendent Fields, abstain

Motion carried.

2. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

2.01 Presentation and Possible Discussion of interim studies from the 60th Oklahoma Legislature - Ms. Skye McNeil, Executive Director of OkACTE.

Ms. Skye McNeil, Executive Director of OkACTE, provided an overview of interim study activity related to CareerTech during the 60th Oklahoma Legislature. She highlighted increased legislative interest in workforce development and CareerTech's role in serving students, employers, and business and industry. Ms. McNeil also summarized key themes from recent studies, including funding discussions, graduation requirement flexibility, and the expansion of apprenticeships.

No action was taken.

2.02 Presentation and Possible Discussion of the Annual Accreditation Training for State Board - Mr. Joey Vanek, Accreditation Manager.

Accreditation Manager Joey Vanek provided the annual accreditation training required for Board members. He reviewed the Board's role as the accrediting authority for technology centers, the accreditation standards, the five-year visit cycle, examiner responsibilities, and recent process updates. The Board also received a brief update on federal student aid participation.

No action was taken.

2.03 Discussion on the 2025 Annual Report - Mr. Russell Ray, Director of Communication and Marketing.

Mr. Ray provided an overview of the 2025 Annual Report, highlighting record enrollments, industry certifications, and CTSO membership. He noted K-12 enrollments exceeded goals, tech center and workforce programs continued to grow, and more than 10,000 businesses were served. Mr. Ray emphasized CareerTech's strong placement rates, expanding adult education programs, and the impact of communications and marketing efforts in raising public awareness.

No action was taken.

3. MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

3.01 Discussion and Possible Action on the FY26 CareerTech Business Plan - Mr. Russell Ray, Director of Communications and Marketing.

Mr. Ray presented updates to the FY26 CareerTech Business Plan, noting the primary change was the appropriations request. Director Haken reviewed adjustments, including increased allocations for the technology center expansion incentive and career

exploration programs, as well as an updated state investment per CareerTech certification using unduplicated numbers.

Action:

Mr. Randy Gilbert moved to approve the FY26 CareerTech Business Plan. Mr. Michael Brown seconded the motion.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, abstain
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

3.02 Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Salaries - Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education.

Director Haken provided an update on agency employee salaries, noting the ongoing need to remain market-competitive to recruit and retain top talent. He reported that data collection and analysis are still in progress and recommended no action at this time. Director Haken explained that he now has flexibility to hire within existing pay bands and will present a full report at the next board meeting, including proposed adjustments to ensure equitable and competitive salaries across the agency.

Action:

A motion was made by Mr. Michael Brown to table the agenda item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randy Gilbert.

Voting Results:

Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Brian Bobek, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Item tabled. No action was taken.

3.03 Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Department, in consultation with legal counsel, to begin the rulemaking process and file the Notices of Rulemaking Intent for proposed amendments and updates to

the Oklahoma Administrative Code, including but not limited to Chapter 1 (General), Chapter 10 (Administration and Supervision), Chapter 15 (Technology Centers), Chapter 20 (Programs and Services), and Chapter 25 (Business and Industry Services), pursuant to the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, 75 O.S. § 250.1 et seq., and 70 O.S. §§ 14-103.1, 14-103.2, 14-104, 14-106, 14-108, 14-129, and 14-131 - Ms. Gina Hubbard, Director of Statewide Outreach.

Ms. Gina Hubbard presented proposed amendments and updates to Chapters 1, 10, 15, 20, and 25 of the Oklahoma Administrative Code. She provided an overview of the rulemaking process, the establishment of a Rules Advisory Committee with representation from K-12, technology centers, agency staff, legal counsel, and the public, and emphasized the ongoing nature of rulemaking.

Key highlights included:

- Chapters 1 & 10: Updates to travel claim approvals, broadening the definition of financial aid, and establishing processes related to GI Bill tuition assistance for National Guard members.
- Chapter 15: Streamlining enrollment procedures and removing references to lawful immigration status to ensure alignment with federal and state law.
- Chapter 20: Clarifying program definitions, prerequisites, and CTSO requirements across occupational divisions; updates to Health Science Education terminology; alignment of K-12 CareerTech teacher contracts; flexibility for planning and supervisory hours; and permanent implementation of the Technology Center Industry Certification Specialist pathway for instructors.
- Chapter 25: Updates to Business and Industry Services funding formulas and removal of outdated language.

Ms. Hubbard explained that the changes aim to enhance consistency, clarity, and flexibility while aligning with legislative and regulatory requirements. The board discussed alternative instructor pathways and alignment with higher education standards.

Mr. Brian Bobek moved to approve the Department, in consultation with legal counsel, to begin the rulemaking process and file the Notices of Rulemaking Intent, with a correction on page 54 renumbering #7 to #6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Randy Gilbert.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, yes
Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes

Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Michael Brown moved to adjourn at 10:55 a.m.
The motion was seconded by Mr. Brian Bobek.

Voting Results:

Mr. Rob Seeman, yes
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes
Mr. Michael Brown, yes
Mr. Brian Bobek, yes
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will
be held Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at Mid-Del
Technology Center, Midwest City, Oklahoma.

A copy of the minutes is on file at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology
Education.



Lindel Fields, State Superintendent
of Public Instruction and Chair of the Board



Ashley Rink, Executive Assistant
to the CareerTech State Director and
Secretary of the CareerTech Board