

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the**  
**STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION**  
**HELD AT MID-DEL TECHNOLOGY CENTER**  
**1621 MAPLE DRIVE**  
**MIDWEST CITY, OKLAHOMA**

**November 20, 2025**

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:04 a.m. Thursday, November 20, 2025, at Mid-Del Technology Center, 1621 Maple Drive, Midwest 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 November 19, 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. Peter Dillingham, Enid  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa – arrived at 9:12 a.m.  
Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa

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

Mr. Rob Seeman, Morris

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 9:04 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.

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### **1.03 OPENING COMMENTS**

Superintendent Lindel Fields called the meeting to order and proceeded directly into the business on the agenda.

No action was taken.

### **1.04 DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Director Brent Haken provided an update on agency activities, including the ongoing strategic planning process being conducted with The First Simmon Group following the RFP process. He noted that staff will receive information about the planning rollout in December. He also reported that the agency is conducting 360-degree surveys for all staff and that he and the leadership team are reviewing the results.

Director Haken informed the board that this is the interim period for the new funding formula and that the agency is reviewing fall program numbers, evaluating growth and determining potential midterm adjustments. Superintendents will receive updates in the coming months regarding how the new formula may affect state aid.

He noted that nominations for the CareerTech Hall of Fame remain open until Dec. 31.

Director Haken also reported that a debriefing meeting will take place in December regarding the recent delegation trip to Germany focused on apprenticeships, and board members will receive an invitation.

He concluded by noting that the meeting will include time for discussion of policy initiatives.

No action was taken.

### **1.05 MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2025, REGULAR MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Randy Gilbert and seconded by Mr. Michael Brown to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2025, regular meeting.

Voting Results:

Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, absent  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes  
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes  
Mr. Michael Brown, yes  
Mr. Brian Bobek, yes

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Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

## 2. RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATIONS

**2.01 Presentation and Possible Discussion by Mid-Del Technology Center  
Superintendent Ms. Becki Foster and Student Representatives.**

Ms. Becki Foster, superintendent of Mid-Del Technology Center, provided an overview of the district's hybrid governance model under the Mid-Del Schools Board of Education and noted that the technology center operates three campuses, including the Tinker Tech location on Tinker Air Force Base. She introduced several students who shared information about their programs and personal experiences at Mid-Del Technology Center.

Ivie O'Quinn, a junior in the structural welding program, discussed her decision to pursue welding, her training in shielded metal arc welding and her long-term goal of owning a welding business. Zion Rodriguez, a second-year plumbing student, spoke about his career goals in the plumbing trade, the benefit of earning hours toward his journeyman license and his involvement in service activities such as Plumbers Against Hunger. Joscelyn Laughlin, a second-year cybersecurity student and SkillsUSA chapter president, described her technical training, leadership opportunities and her community cybersecurity awareness project, and she noted her plans to pursue a business degree at Rose State College. Mason Bristow, an adult student in the aircraft structures program, shared his training experience, job placement opportunities at Tinker Air Force Base and the program's workforce preparation efforts. Maddison Griffin, an automotive student concurrently pursuing business studies at the University of Central Oklahoma, discussed her goals of entering the automotive industry and eventually owning her own shop, as well as the industry certifications and tool benefits she is earning through the program.

Ms. Foster concluded by expressing pride in the students' achievements and the diverse educational and career pathways represented.

No action was taken.

## 3. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

**3.01 Discussion on Policy Initiatives for Upcoming Legislative Session – Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education.**

Director Brent Haken provided an update on potential policy initiatives for the upcoming legislative session. He reported that the agency is exploring the addition of a second

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retirement system option for employees, similar to the structure used by other state agencies such as the State Department of Education. He explained that adding an additional retirement system could improve the agency's ability to recruit retired educators or individuals with previous service in Teachers' Retirement by allowing them to continue drawing their existing retirement while participating in a separate system. He noted that draft language is being developed and that the agency is identifying potential legislative sponsors.

Director Haken also discussed a planned legislative request related to accreditation. He stated that the agency and the State Department of Education are reviewing statutory provisions due to overlapping responsibilities and differences in how each system calculates instructional time. He noted that statutory updates are needed to clarify authority for granting postsecondary credit and to address compliance issues created by calendar and rule changes affecting technology centers. The agency will work with the State Department of Education to ensure proposed changes are mutually supportive.

No action was taken.

#### 4. MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

##### 4.01 Discussion and Possible Action on FY26 Lottery Grant Awards (K-12) - Ms. Cori Gray, Director of Student Success.

Ms. Cori Gray presented the FY26 Lottery Grant Awards for K-12 schools. She reported that the agency completed its second funding cycle using the current-year allocation model and increased the maximum award amount from \$15,000 to \$20,000. She noted that the agency received more than 320 applications statewide and is recommending 87 grants totaling \$596,519 for approval.

Ms. Gray explained that applications were evaluated using a standardized rubric, with scoring conducted by CareerTech staff outside the requesting divisions and that not all applicants received funding due to the volume of requests. She stated that, upon board approval, schools may begin spending funds on Dec. 1 and must submit all invoices by March 30 to ensure expenditures occur within the current fiscal year.

State Director Brent Haken provided additional context regarding the transition from awarding funds in arrears to the current-year model, noting that the agency is distributing an additional set of funds this cycle as part of that transition.

Action:  
Mr. Brian Bobek moved to approve the FY26 K-12 Lottery Grant Awards. Mr. Peter Dillingham seconded the motion.

Voting Results:  
Mr. Brian Bobek, yes

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Mr. Michael Brown, yes  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes  
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes  
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes  
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

**4.02 Discussion and Possible Action on FY26 Lottery Grant Awards  
(Technology Centers) - Ms. Cori Gray, Director of Student Success.**

Ms. Gray reported that a remaining pool of lottery grant funds was available for technology centers. Working with Director Haken, the two developed an approach to distribute the funds by aligning grant priorities with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission Critical Occupations List (Top 100, released August 2024). Technology centers were asked to submit grant applications supporting one or more of those critical occupation areas.

To ensure fairness and support smaller or rural districts, the scoring rubric included preference points for rural designation, smaller school size and schools receiving less state allocation funding. Twenty technology centers applied, and eight grants were awarded based on rubric scoring. Seven grants fell within the trade and industrial division, which is the largest occupational area, and one was within the health division.

Board members asked clarifying questions about the T&I division and rural designations. Ms. Gray noted that not all awarded schools were rural because of how service areas are defined, even when they appear rural geographically.

Action:

A motion was made by Mr. Randy Gilbert to approve the FY26 Technology Center Lottery Grant Awards. The motion was seconded by Ms. Shaelynn Haning.

Voting Results:

Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes  
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes  
Mr. Michael Brown, yes  
Mr. Brian Bobek, yes  
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

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**4.03 Discussion and Possible Action on the Distance Education Accreditation  
for the Practical Nursing Program at Tri County Technology Center School  
District No. 1 – Ms. Andra Beyer, Accreditation Coordinator; and Ms. Tara  
Gotwalt, Chief Instructional Officer, Tri County Technology Center.**

Ms. Beyer provided an overview of the accreditation process for full-time programs offering any portion of instruction via distance education. She explained that ODCTE evaluates programs using board-approved standards addressing program integrity; resources and technology; learning development; instruction; skill attainment; student supports; marketing; student engagement; and program effectiveness.

As part of the approval process, the examiner team — composed of ODCTE health science education and accreditation staff members — conducted interviews with administrators and instructors, reviewed the distance education platform and observed program facilities. Agency staff members will also conduct a midyear review to confirm attendance tracking, clock-hour monitoring, identity verification and overall program quality. Any changes resulting from that review will be reported back to the board.

Ms. Beyer reported that on Oct. 15, 2025, the agency conducted an on-site distance education approval visit at Tri County Technology Center in Bartlesville for its practical nursing program. The program met every required standard, with no categories rated below "met." She recommended that the board grant full accreditation status to the program. Ms. Tara Gotwalt from Tri County was present to answer questions.

Ms. Gotwalt expressed appreciation for the opportunity and shared Tri County's pride in launching the practical nursing distance education option, noting the significant work involved and the importance of accountability to students and the communities they serve.

Board members asked questions regarding scoring variances, the potential for expanding similar programs statewide and the challenges of distance education in a clock-hour system, particularly regarding attendance verification and clinical skill requirements. Director Haken explained that while expansion is possible, clock-hour distance education is complex, and alternative models such as apprenticeship-based bridge programs may more effectively address the statewide nursing shortage. He also noted that Oklahoma CareerTech trains approximately 80% of Oklahoma's LPNs and maintains the highest NCLEX-PN pass rate in the country.

It was also noted that for FY25–26, 23 distance education programs are approved across the state's technology centers.

Mr. Peter Dillingham moved to approve the distance education accreditation for the practical nursing program at Tri County Technology Center school district No. 1. The motion was seconded by Mr. Michael Brown.

Voting Results:

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Mr. Brian Bobek, yes  
Mr. Michael Brown, yes  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes  
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes  
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes  
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

**4.04 Discussion and Possible Action on Submissions of Notices of Rulemaking Intent – Ms. Gina Hubbard, Director of Statewide Outreach.**

Ms. Hubbard reported that following last month's approval of the Notices of Rulemaking Intent, additional edits were made to two administrative rule chapters.

She explained that Chapter 15 includes a revision related to out-of-district tuition for secondary students. Current rule requires out-of-district students to be charged no less than twice the cost of instruction. The proposed change would allow the agency to establish a statewide tuition formula, providing flexibility without binding the department to a single calculation method. This language aligns with the workforce/economic development and technology center funding formulas. No board action was required, as the notice of intent was approved in the prior meeting.

Ms. Hubbard stated that feedback from technology centers was positive and that the proposal originated from the field, reflecting a desire for consistent statewide tuition and reduced competitive discrepancies.

She also presented an edit in Chapter 20 concerning Technology Center Industry Specialist Certification. The current rule limits this certification pathway to instructors. The proposed change would extend eligibility to program teaching assistants who are actively engaged in daily instructional activities and have the required industry experience, with administrative approval. This correction is intended to align the rule with original intent and support workforce needs.

Ms. Hubbard noted that the Notices of Rulemaking Intent have been filed and that the rules are scheduled for publication in the Oklahoma Register on Dec. 1, after which public comment will begin.

No board action was taken.

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**4.05 Discussion and Possible Action on Employee Salaries – Mr. Brent Haken,  
State Director of Career and Technology Education.**

State Director Brent Haken provided an update on the agency's evaluation of employee salaries. He reported that the agency has reviewed teaching and salary reports, market comparisons and alignment with other state agencies. All current agency salaries fall within the established pay bands, and no adjustments to the bands are needed at this time. He explained that the agency plans to revise its hiring practices so that future job postings may advertise salary ranges extending up to the third quartile of the applicable pay band rather than limiting postings to the first quartile. This change is intended to strengthen recruitment efforts and allow salaries to be set according to applicants' experience and qualifications. Mr. Haken stated that this action does not require board approval because the pay bands have already been authorized and the agency retains authority to set salaries within those bands. Budget staff confirmed the agency is able to implement this approach.

No board action was taken.

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mr. Peter Dillingham moved to adjourn at 10:11 a.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brian Bobek.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, yes  
Mr. Michael Brown, yes  
Mr. Ryan Deatherage, yes  
Mr. Peter Dillingham, yes  
Mr. Randy Gilbert, yes  
Ms. Shaelynn Haning, yes  
Mr. Leonard McCullough, yes  
Superintendent Fields, yes

Motion carried.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be held Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

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

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

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

