

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
STATE BOARD OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION
2500 NORTH LINCOLN BOULEVARD
OLIVER HODGE BUILDING, ROOM 500 CR2
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA**

May 14, 2026

The State Board of Career and Technology Education began its regular meeting at 9:03 a.m. Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2500 North Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK, and the meeting was also streamed on YouTube. Notice of the meeting and the final agenda were posted in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act prior to 8:59 a.m. on May 13, 2026, 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, state 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. Peter Dillingham, Enid
- Mr. Randy Gilbert, Tecumseh
- Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Tulsa
- Mr. Leonard McCullough, Tulsa

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

- Mr. Ryan Deatherage, Kingfisher
- 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

Superintendent Fields called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Ms. Ashley Rink called the roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

1.02 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, SALUTE TO THE OKLAHOMA STATE FLAG

AND A MOMENT OF SILENCE

The Pledge of Allegiance, Salute to the Oklahoma State Flag and a moment of silence were led by Superintendent Fields.

1.03 OPENING COMMENTS

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mr. Lindel Fields welcomed those in attendance.

1.04 DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Mr. Brent Haken, State Director of Career and Technology Education, welcomed those in attendance and commented on the successful completion of the spring semester, including student graduations and workforce placements across the state.

1.05 MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2026, REGULAR MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Peter Dillingham and seconded by Mr. Randy Gilbert to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2026, regular meeting as presented.

Voting Results:

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

Motion carried.

2 RECOGNITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

**2.01 PRESENTATION AND POSSIBLE DISCUSSION OF OKLAHOMA SKILLSUSA
– MS. RENEE REED, TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION STATE
PROGRAM MANAGER; MS. LAUREN HOLMES, SKILLSUSA STATE
ADVISOR; AND 2026 SKILLSUSA STUDENT OFFICERS.**

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Ms. Renee Reed, Trade and Industrial Education State Program Manager, Ms. Lauren Holmes, SkillsUSA State Advisor, and 2026 SkillsUSA student officers provided an overview of SkillsUSA activities and accomplishments during the 2025-2026 school year.

Presenters introduced the 2026 SkillsUSA secondary and postsecondary student officers and highlighted student success in CareerTech programs across the state. A welding sculpture created by a SkillsUSA student was displayed for Board members.

Ms. Holmes reported that more than 2,300 students participated in SkillsUSA state competitions, with more than 1,300 students receiving medals and more than \$100,000 in industry-donated prizes awarded. Presenters recognized the contributions of industry partners, sponsors, volunteers, and judges who supported the events.

Student officers shared information about their respective CareerTech programs and educational experiences. A video recap of SkillsUSA state competition activities was presented, and presenters highlighted Teamwork and competitive events that showcase students' technical and leadership skills.

Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and congratulated the students on their accomplishments.

No action was taken.

Due to scheduling considerations, the Board moved to Agenda Item 4.01 before completing management information items.

4 MANAGEMENT ACTION ITEMS

4.01 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FULL POSTSECONDARY ACCREDITATION FOR SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 27 – MR. JOEY VANEK, ACCREDITATION MANAGER; AND MR. DALE LATHAM, SUPERINTENDENT, SOUTHWEST TECHNOLOGY CENTER.

Mr. Joey Vanek reviewed the accreditation process and presented the results of the accreditation review conducted at Southwest Technology Center in Altus, OK on December 9-11, 2025. Mr. Vanek reported that a team of 22 examiners conducted the review, which included interviews with 38 stakeholders and evaluations of all aspects of the technology center's operations.

Highlights of the review included Southwest Technology Center's Aviation Maintenance program partnership with Altus Air Force Base, a reported 98 percent positive placement rate for full-time programs, and a strong culture of support and engagement among students, staff, and administration.

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Mr. Vanek reported that no areas of noncompliance were identified and recommended that the Board grant full accreditation status to Southwest Technology Center.

Mr. Dale Latham, Superintendent of Southwest Technology Center, expressed appreciation for the accreditation process and stated that the review provided valuable feedback, reinforced the district's strategic planning efforts, and recognized the accomplishments of students and staff. Mr. Latham also discussed opportunities and challenges associated with future growth and program expansion.

A motion was made by Mr. Randy Gilbert and seconded by Mr. Peter Dillingham to approve full accreditation.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, yes
Mr. Michael Brown, 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 THE DISTANCE EDUCATION ACCREDITATION FOR THEIR CERTIFIED CLINICAL MEDICAL ASSISTANT (CCMA) PROGRAM AT TRI COUNTY TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1 – MR. JOEY VANEK, ACCREDITATION MANAGER; AND MS. TARA GOTWALT, CHIEF INSTRUCTIONAL OFFICER, TRI COUNTY TECHNOLOGY CENTER.

Mr. Joey Vanek presented the results of the April 29, 2026, review of the Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) distance education program at Tri County Technology Center.

The review found no areas of noncompliance and confirmed the program met all minimum standards.

A follow-up review will be conducted in January 2027.

Ms. Tara Gotwalt highlighted the success of the center's hybrid Practical Nursing program and discussed strong student demand for flexible learning options.

Board members discussed the expansion of distance education programs.

A motion was made by Mr. Brian Bobek and seconded by Ms. Shaelynn Haning to approve the accreditation.

Voting Results:

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

Motion carried.

**4.03 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FY26 LOTTERY
SCHOLARSHIPS – MS. JESSICA VENTRIS, DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC
AFFAIRS.**

Ms. Jessica Ventris presented FY26 Lottery Scholarships funded through the Oklahoma Education Lottery Trust Fund. She reported that 482 scholarships totaling \$548,599 were awarded across Summer 2025, Fall 2025, and Spring 2026 terms.

Board members discussed the scholarship program and its support of professional development for CareerTech employees.

A motion was made by Mr. Randy Gilbert and seconded by Mr. Michael Brown to approve the Scholarships.

Voting Results:

Mr. Brian Bobek, yes
Mr. Michael Brown, 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 FY27 LOTTERY GRANT
AWARDS (K-12) – MS. CORI GRAY, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS.**

Ms. Cori Gray presented FY27 K–12 lottery grant awards. She reported more than 250 applications were received and 94 grants were recommended for approval. Grant awards were increased to \$20,000 per grant.

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Applications are reviewed using a scoring rubric evaluating innovation, impact, and student benefit.

Board members discussed grant processes, reimbursement requirements, and application support resources.

A motion was made by Mr. Leonard McCullough and seconded by Mr. Brian Bobek to approve the K-12 awards.

Voting Results:

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

Motion carried.

4.05 DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON FY27 LOTTERY GRANT AWARDS (TECHNOLOGY CENTERS) – MS. CORI GRAY, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUCCESS.

Ms. Cori Gray presented FY27 lottery grant awards for technology centers. She reported that \$3,437,634 was awarded during FY26, with approximately 98 percent of funds utilized.

Ms. Gray explained that grants are distributed on a rotating basis to ensure equitable access across technology centers.

Board members discussed allocation procedures and participation across the system.

A motion was made by Mr. Peter Dillingham and seconded by Ms. Shaelynn Haning to approve the Technology Centers awards.

Voting Results:

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

Motion carried.

3 MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

3.01 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF AGENCY STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORTS AND ORGANIZATIONAL ALIGNMENT WITH AGENCY GOALS – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Mr. Brent Haken provided an update on the agency's strategic planning process in partnership with The Persimmon Group. He outlined six strategic themes focused on system alignment, workforce development, leadership capacity, public perception, and educational integration.

He noted that a communications manager position is being added to support implementation efforts.

Board members discussed public awareness of the CareerTech system and cross-sector alignment.

No action was taken.

3.02 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGY CENTER FUNDING – MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Mr. Haken provided an update on the new funding formula, which includes approximately \$5 million in additional funding and is designed to improve equity and consistency across technology centers.

He discussed capacity thresholds, rural considerations, waiver provisions, and improvements in data consistency.

Board members discussed implementation, rural impacts, and the phased rollout period.

No action was taken.

3.03 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF AGENCY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP ALIGNMENT - MR. BRENT HAKEN, STATE DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION.

Mr. Brent Haken presented a proposed update to the agency's executive leadership structure, including the potential creation of a Chief Operating Officer (COO) position to enhance organizational alignment and operational efficiency.

Mr. Haken stated that the proposed structure would transition from a model in which all agency leadership reports directly to the State Director to a structure in which

responsibilities are distributed between a Chief Operating Officer and the existing Chief of Staff, while maintaining agency-wide coordination and communication.

Mr. Haken indicated that a draft job description for the COO position would be developed and shared with the Board for review. He noted that the selection process would include internal candidates, with a final recommendation to be presented to the Board for approval.

Board members discussed the proposal and established a small committee of the board to work with State Director Haken to further review and refine the details prior to the next Board meeting. The committee includes Mr. Leonard McCullough, Ms. Shaelynn Haning, Mr. Randy Gilbert, and Mr. Peter Dillingham.

The committee will provide a report at the next Board meeting.

No action was taken.

5 NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business requiring action.


6 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Career and Technology Education will be Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, Stillwater, 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