



Policy: 9.36

SUBJECT: **OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION**

Supersedes: IGAD; IGAD-R
Effective: September 8, 2008
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Approved by: Detroit Board of Education

1.0 Policy

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Note: The term “occupational education” is used to cover career education, career guidance, and vocational and technical education.

Many current Board policies for career guidance and vocational education have evolved as the result of community needs and a 1975 court order desegregating schools and requiring extensive changes in the delivery of vocational and technical programs.

Philosophy, Goals, Requirements

The Board believes that the Detroit Public Schools should help all students develop interests and knowledge in the world of work and career skills. By the time students graduate from a Detroit high school, they should be motivated and prepared with skills and knowledge for successful employment in a chosen occupational area, or educationally prepared for further education and training in an occupational area in which they have knowledge, interest, and prerequisite skills and abilities. For these reasons, and to further integrate the school system the negative image of vocational education must be changed.

In the Detroit school system, career and vocational education will become part of the regular curriculum. Career education and guidance will be provided at all grade levels. In high schools, individual students, with the help of parents and the counseling and teaching staff, will plan their individual programs with career goals in mind.

Further, vocational experiences will be included among requirements for high school graduation: (1) all students will take part in a comprehensive career guidance program during each of their high school years; (2) they will spend at least one year in a vocationally-oriented program; and (3) will engage in an outside-of-class learning

experience that is vocational, career-exploratory or service-oriented for 200 clock hours, which will entitle them to one unit (10 hours) of high school credit.

Note: For specifics pertaining to career guidance, see “Guidance Program model for Elementary Schools, Middle Schools, and Senior High Schools” (approved by Board 10/9/79). Detailed plans for implementing policies stated in the last paragraph above are set forth in separate documents on the high school graduation modifications, adopted by the Board 6/28/77.

Vocational/Technical Centers

The district will operate five citywide vocational/technical centers to provide students in grades 11 and 12 with up-to-date vocational and technical education in modern facilities that are well equipped and well staffed.

The programs of each center will be concentrated in one or more broad occupational fields, although unrelated programs in demand will also be offered. Only programs in high demand will be offered in two or more centers. All programs will be developed with the aid and advice of appropriate individuals and groups in the occupational field.

The variety of programs offered at each center will be selected, in part, to encourage a balance of sexes among total enrollment at the center.

Students will attend the centers one-half day for vocational/technical training and their home schools the other half day for academic courses. The students will retain their identity with their home schools for all purposes except technical/vocational training – for participation in sports, extracurricular activities, and graduation, for example.

Students from any high school in the city may apply for any program offered by the vocational/technical centers unless the program is offered in their home school. Admission is subject to prerequisites for the particular program, space availability, and criteria for admission established by the Board.

Admission criteria and procedures:

1. Applications will be submitted in the second semester of grade 10 (second semester of grade 11 for selected programs).
2. A selection committee in each high school will review applications and recommend pupils for admission. The committee will be composed of the school’s vocational center guidance liaison person, a vocational department staff member, a parent, two students and other persons designated by school administration.

3. Students must meet any requirements and prerequisites for the particular program for which they are applying.
4. Evidence of serious interest in a given program will merit high priority in consideration for admission.
5. A record of good attendance and promptness will be factors in selection.
6. Extenuating circumstances will be considered, particularly as they relate to pupil interest.

Appropriate Board and staff committees will develop more detailed criteria and selection procedures.

Note: Various district documents set forth the rationales, programs and procedures of the five vocational/technical centers. The plan approved by the court is in "Proposed Plans for Area Vocational Center Programs" (5/17/76), which also offers a history of vocational education in Detroit.

High School Vocational Offerings

Detroit high schools will continue to provide vocational education on a limited scale – in general, these will be programs in which the schools have sufficiently high enrollment for the required courses and the necessary modern facilities and equipment. These will include such standard business programs as accounting, clerk-typist, and clerk-stenographer; distributive education; and drafting course. The high schools will also continue to offer nonwage-earning home economics and certain exploratory courses.

Those high schools with new and up-to-date equipment and facilities for certain vocational programs, provided the programs are approved for state/federal support and have sufficient enrollment, will continue to offer them, with Board approval.

With the exceptions noted above, and other special arrangements that may be made for handicapped or adult students, the district's vocational and technical education programs will be located in vocational/technical centers and in the Cass Technical High School.

Cass Technical High School

The Board will continue to operate one four-year technical high school, Cass, to offer technical training in fields that require more years of preparation than are available at the vocational centers. These programs will include performing arts, art, music, science, and various technological programs, as approved by the Board.

Admissions will be on a citywide basis. To qualify for admission, a student must have the established prerequisites and meet qualifications in terms of test scores. The selection of students among those who qualify for enrollment will be on the basis of those most likely to benefit from the program.

Aeromechanics

An aeromechanics program, housed in a vocational/technical center, will offer three years of specialized instruction and hanger shop experience qualifying full-time students for FAA mechanics certification in aircraft power plant and airframe technology.

In keeping with agreements establishing the program, admissions will be open for qualified high school students who have completed grades 9, post-graduates, and adults, including both residents of Detroit and area residents.

The program is approved by the FAA, and supported jointly by the district and state/federal agencies.

Note: The aeromechanics high school program is housed in the Davis Vocational/Technical Center, which offers aerospace training.

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Admission to Vocational/Technical Centers

1. Students must meet the requirements of the program for which they are applying. In some programs academic requirements are necessary in order that students may function effectively in them. These prerequisites will be described on program information sheets. Students and parents should review these carefully before choosing a program, since the courses will be required for admission to that program.
2. The extent to which students show evidence of serious interest in a given program should merit high priority in considerations for admission. Evidence of serious interest might be indicated by completion of one or more of the subjects recommended in the descriptive brochures of the particular program for which the student is applying, by participation in related volunteer or paid work experiences, by field trips, career discussion groups, related hobbies, or center visits. Students who manifest sincere interest in a given program are more likely to display a commitment to gain as much as possible from the training.

3. Students having an absence record of not more than 5 percent (one absence per month) will be given consideration for admission to center programs. Adequate training cannot be provided for students with poor attendance habits. Promptness will be necessary to provide an efficient transportation service.
4. There are times when extenuating circumstances might warrant recommendation of a student for admission in spite of some shortcomings in the above categories. A recommendation from a teacher or the student's counselor may be requested in order to provide an explanation of these circumstances.
5. When criteria have been met equally by a number of students, the filing date of applications will be a deciding factor. Students should be encouraged to follow through on commitments in a prompt manner.

Students and their parents should be informed of these criteria as early as the ninth grade when the plan of work is made. This will allow students adequate time to take required and recommended course and to monitor their attendance patterns.

Cass Technical High School Admissions

To qualify for admission to Cass Technical High School, a student must:

1. Have completed grade 8.
2. Have the recommendation of his or her counselor.
3. Score with a mark of "C" or better in the California Test of Mental maturity.
4. Be at grade level in the basic skill test.
5. Rank at the 50th percentile or above in a standard test of achievement in mathematics and reading.

Additional qualifications include evidence of career interest in the program for which application is made and a good attendance record.

To graduate from the Cass Technical High School, a student must meet all requirements established by the State of Michigan, by the Detroit Board of Education, and must have earned the required credits in the program he or she has taken.

Davis Vocational/Technical Center Aeromechanics Program

In addition to the two-year vocational/technical center offerings, the Davis Vocational/Technical Center provides a three-year, 43-week program leading to a high school diploma and a Federal Aviation Administration mechanic's certification in aircraft

power plant or aircraft airframe. Students in the program are concurrently enrolled in academics and electives required for high school graduation.

Students who are completing grade 9 may make application to the program, which requires an interest in the field of aircraft repair and a working knowledge of mathematics and science.

Applications will be made directly at the Davis Vocational/Technical Center by the prospective student and parent or guardian.

Note: See Handbook of Safety Regulations for safety requirements relating to vocational education.

Attachments to Policy 9.36: None

Legal References: Among state laws and regulations on career/vocational/technical education are:

MCLA § 380.1233a

MCLA § 388.1661a-388.1662

MCLA § 395.1-395.10

MCLA § 395.31-395.34

R340.1301-R340.1305

R395.231-R395.376

Labor Contract References: None