



Academy In-Person Training: Engaging Parents and Educators Objectives



Our “great white whale” is finding ways to make CTE appealing to parents and educators.

There’s lots of history here that we have to acknowledge:

- a Career Diploma that was openly derided for its low standards and lack of actual career preparation;
- a history (in Louisiana and beyond) of using vocational education as a tracking mechanism to reduce opportunities for minority students and students with disabilities;
- a yawning gap between the skills that school-based vocational education programs helped students master versus the technical skills, communications skills and workplace behaviors employers seek in young job applicants; and
- a deep-seated belief that achieving “the American Dream” requires a four-year college degree.*

Together we accept the challenge of creating a positive momentum for engaging parents and educators, overcoming the stigma associated with CTE programs and pathways.

This morning we’re offering each of you four discussion items to focus on:

- 1) Barriers to Communicating with Parents / Students / Families**
- 2) Barriers to Communicating with Educators (Teachers, Counselors, Administrators)**
- 3) Best Practices: Communicating with Parents / Students / Families**
- 4) Best Practices: Communicating with Educators (Teachers, Counselors, Administrators)**

Self-select the topic you want to address. Self-organize the group. Work with the experts we’ve invited to participate in this session.

Please be ready to report out (concise 10 minute report outs) by 10:15am.

* - among many educators there is also the belief that the mission of public high school is to help students master critical intellectual, academic, civic and social-emotional skills . . . a list that does not include career-related skills. If we’re candid, we have to concede that there are educators who are skeptical about the value of Jump Start pathways and IBCs, and some who are opposed to the concept that public education is the place for career preparation.

(It may be true that this type of hesitation to support CTE is less prevalent among Louisiana educators than among educators in other states.)