

## **BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

**February 25, 2014**

### **SUBJECT:**

Middle School Project Based Learning Pilot Project at Aiken County Career and Technology Center

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

The tenth grade exploratory program has demonstrated that many students who previously had not considered Career and Technology Education (CTE) take advantage of opportunities available at the Aiken County Career and Technology Center (ACCTC) after the exploratory experience.

Middle schools across the school district are working to expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities that include Project Based Learning (PBL).

### **ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATION:**

Through the implementation of this pilot, middle school students will become more actively engaged in learning through the use of PBL, which closely parallels real world STEM careers. Student collaboration will increase as well as collaboration between the middle schools and ACCTC.

ACCTC will reallocate one FTE teacher to coordinate the project and provide direct instruction to middle school students in collaboration with their core teachers. This model will provide enhanced PBL, CTE, and STEM opportunities for middle school students while promoting opportunities available at ACCTC.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the Middle School Project Based Learning Pilot

### **ATTACHMENT:**

Pilot program application

### **PREPARED BY:**

King Laurence

# **AIKEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES**

## **APPLICATION FOR NEW PROGRAMS OR CONTINUATION OF PILOT PROGRAMS**

Please complete the following application when seeking approval to implement a new curriculum or instructional program (grant-supported or otherwise), and when planning to initiate partnerships or collaborative agreements with various community organizations. (This application is available on disk for your convenience. However, a paper copy must be submitted as the official application).

**SCHOOL:** Aiken County Career and Technology Center

**Principal:** Brooks Smith

**Application Prepared by:** King Laurence

**Title of Proposed Program:** Middle School Project Based Learning

**Program Beginning Date:** August 2014

**Program Ending Date:** June 2015

### **I. Evidence of need for such a program:**

The tenth grade exploratory program has demonstrated that many students who previously had not considered Career and Technology Education (CTE) take advantage of opportunities available at the Aiken County Career and Technology Center (ACCTC) after the exploratory experience.

Middle schools across the school district are working to expand Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) opportunities which include Project Based Learning (PBL)

This pilot would provide enhanced PBL, CTE, and STEM opportunities for middle school students while promoting opportunities available at ACCTC.

## II. Specific objectives of program:

Promote CTE and STEM career pathways available at the career and technology center and high schools while also enhancing science standards in middle schools.

## III. List ways in which this program supports the school district's educational goals and objectives as outlined in the district's school accountability and strategic plan:

**Goal 2:** By spring 2014, the on time graduation rate will be at least 80%.

**Strategy 1:** Implement best practices designed to support and accelerate struggling middle and high school students.

**Activity f:** Expand and update CATE course offerings at the Aiken County Career and Technology Center and at the high schools – particularly rural high schools

**Activity i:** Implement transition programs between elementary and middle schools, and between middle and high schools

## IV. Specifically, list how students will gain academic (primarily) and behavioral benefits from the program:

- Hands on experience with CTE and STEM
- Students more actively engaged in learning through the use of PBL
- PBL use in the classroom more closely parallels its use in real world STEM careers
- More creation-based assessment
- More student collaboration
- Collaboration between middle schools and ACCTC
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## V. Proposed method of evaluation of program objectives:

The pilot will be evaluated by using a combination of classroom observations; surveys of students, teachers, administrators, and parents; review of student products, and impact on state summative tests. Eventually, ACCTC enrollment will be evaluated for the programs impact on CTE interest.

## VI. Budget Proposal and Funding Source:

1 FTE (Middle School PBL/CTE/STEM Coordinator)	\$ 0.00 (Reallocation)
Travel for training and between ACCTC and middle schools	2,000.00
Materials for PBL	10,000.00

The funding for this project would come primarily from Perkins CTE funds or, if necessary, from state supplemental funds.

NOTE: If the program involves mentors or volunteers, please attach the names of the individuals. A reference check should be conducted and documents attached for each individual. The information on the volunteers and mentors are to be maintained in the areas offices. Please put a "D" (for DONE) in the box if the reference data are on the file for each individual.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Principal

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Academic Officer  
(Indicating Approval)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Associate Superintendent  
for Instruction and Accountability

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Superintendent

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**Level 1 (Action by Administration)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal returned to school for modification  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal denied  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal approved at Cabinet as the highest level needed for this  
program  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal submitted for Board action

**LEVEL 2 (Action by Board)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal denied  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal approved with conditions cited  
\_\_\_\_\_ Program proposal approved