

**Heartland Workforce Investment Board, Inc. d/b/a  
CareerSource Heartland (CSH)**

**Education and Industry Consortium Strategic Policy**

Senate Bill 240, an act relating to education, and amending Florida Statutes Section 445.007, was signed into law May 15, 2023. This law requires Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) to create education and industry consortiums to provide independent information from stakeholders in the local area. LWDBs shall consider the information provided when creating strategies and local plans that describe efforts to provide educational and workforce opportunities to businesses and job seekers. The goal is to align educational programming with industry needs at the local level.

Education and industry consortiums act as independent advisory groups. Members do not have any direct or implied authority over or within LWDBs. The LWDB Chair shall appoint consortium members, who cannot be Board members. Consortium members shall be appointed for two-year terms beginning on Jan. 1 of the year of the appointment. Vacancies must be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment. There is currently no limit to the number of terms a consortium member may serve.

**Membership**

Although there is no minimum or maximum number of consortium members, the membership of the education and industry consortium must meet the following requirements:

**Industry Representative Requirements:**

- Chief Executive Officers, Presidents, or other executive level staff from top public and private employers in the local area.
- Industry representatives should reflect the priority industries in the local area.

**Education Representative Requirements:**

- Superintendents, Presidents, or other leadership staff from education institutions in the local area that represent both public and private education entities in:
  - o K-12 Education
  - o District Technical Colleges
  - o State Colleges
  - o Universities
  - o Other degree or credential granting institutions in the local area

If a member of the education and industry consortium is unable to attend a meeting, a designee from the members' executive team may attend.

**Meetings**

Each consortium must meet quarterly. The LWDB must ensure administrative support is available. The LWDB is responsible for:

- Maintaining a roster of consortium members.

- Posting the current roster on the LWDB website.
- Posting scheduled consortium meetings on the LWDB website.
- Posting the quarterly reports from each meeting on the LWDB website.

It is not required that Consortium meetings be separately conducted from existing, similar meetings in the local area. Consortium meetings' discussions need only focus on the local labor market needs including:

- Industry representatives sharing their specific talent development needs or observations on talent in the local area; and
- Education representatives sharing what specific education offerings are available in the local area.

## **Reports**

The local area Consortium(s) shall provide quarterly reports to the LWDB. These reports shall provide community-based information related to educational programs and industry needs to inform LWDB concerning programs, services, needs, and partnerships in the service delivery area.

Quarterly reports shall include:

- A record of the consortium members in attendance.
- A summary analysis of the local labor market based on industry representative needs and education offerings.
- Information on priority industry sectors and occupations for the local area.
- Information on the status of existing talent pipelines for in-demand occupations and the need to expand or leverage existing and/or new resources.

LWDBs are encouraged to consider information obtained from the education and industry consortium to determine effective ways to grow, retain and attract talent to the service delivery area. Quarterly education and industry consortium reports shall be published on the LWDB's website. Links to education and industry consortium reports and rosters shall be included in the LWDB's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Local Plan.