Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Education: Ways FCS Teachers Can Integrate the Teaching Profession across FCS Courses

Rationale: A Focus on FCS Education

With the sharp increase in public school enrollment and the growing shift in population demographics, many states and school districts are faced with critical teacher shortages.

One way to increase the potential pool of teacher candidates might be to encourage FCS teachers to take a more purposeful and direct approach in sharing their journey in teaching and to place a stronger emphasis on FCS education as a career option for students.

Students taking courses in the Education and Training Cluster are more likely to receive direct instruction on the importance of teaching as a career choice more so than students taking other FCS cluster courses.

The purpose of this brief is to draw attention to the important role that FCS teachers can play in stressing the positive career options in FCS education across clusters and courses.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

§130.242. Principles of Human Services (3-5)
- Personal and career effectiveness in counseling and mental health services, early childhood development of services, and family and community services

§130.243 Dollars and Sense (6C)
- Education and training required in consumer services

§130.245 Lifetime Nutrition and Wellness (7A)
- Careers in nutrition

§130.246 Counseling and Mental Health (3A)
- Careers related to mental health

§130.247 Child Development (6H)
- Legislation and policies affecting children

§130.248 Child Guidance (6G)
- Careers involving school-age children

§130.249. Family and Community Services (4C)
- Factors influencing employability skills

§130.250. Practicum in Human Service (1C)
- Career paths within the human services industries

Teachers provide the contextual knowledge of how individuals, families, and communities develop.

The FCS classroom is an appropriate forum for facilitating instruction that can assist students in making real-world connections including FCS education across career fields. The fields can include early childhood, early learners, middle and high school, post-secondary (technical, college/university), business, and community-based organizations.
WHAT TEACHERS SHOULD TELL STUDENTS

- FCS education improves the quality of life for individuals, families, and communities.
- FCS education enhances the workforce.
- FCS teaching fields and related opportunities are very bright due to growing enrollment and teacher shortage across the state.
- There are three pathways for teacher certification: university, post-baccalaureate, and alternative/accelerated.

Future Trends

Over the current decade, education occupations will generate:
- 3 million job openings
  - 1.3 million net new jobs
  - 1.7 million openings due to retirement

WHAT TEACHERS CAN DO

Teachers

- Influence students through daily interactions as an instructional coach, facilitator, and manager.
- Promote critical thinking/problem solving in making career choices.
- Model the benefits and rewards of teaching through CTE/FCS career clusters.
- Partner with colleges and universities in marketing FCS education.

STATISTIC:

Education occupations account for 9.5 million jobs and are expected to grow to 10.2 million by 2018.

http://cew.georgetown.edu/jobs2018/

Career Skills in Education Occupations

- Academic skills
- Strong content knowledge
  - Major content area(s)
  - Pedagogical and professional development
- Strong knowledge of child and adolescent development
- Planning, implementing, and evaluating skills
  - Critical thinking & problem solving
- Interpersonal skills
  - Written and verbal
  - Ability to work with diverse groups
  - Schools and families
  - Communities and business
  - Strong leadership ability
  - Ethical practices
- Motivational Skills
- Technical skills


REFERENCES


http://www.cte.sfasu.edu

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