

Recipe for Success

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If the goal of the province is to increase the number of youth going into the trades, then we have a proven recipe for success. Below is the outline of our one ACE IT program, and then the desire to create another ACE IT program, along with the costs involved.

SD #71 ACE IT Auto Service Technician

Technical Training Partner: VCC (Vancouver Community College)

Background:

This is the 4th year the program will run. It was extremely difficult to get it started due to constraints by our local college and little help from the ITA. The Automotive Training Standards Organization was totally behind what we wanted to do and connected our school district with a college that wanted to connect with us. 4 years later we have an excellent reputation for having one of the best track records for student success.

Issues:

- College foundation programs do not always work for school district students. Such as proximity to colleges, timing of programs (September is not a good start time for youth just getting their driving licenses) students may not want to leave their community, limited number of seats due to adults having priority or colleges not wanting too many high school students in their programs,
- Colleges require a Red Seal instructor, whereas ACE IT programs state that it is the school districts that can deem who is an appropriate instructor. Some colleges have difficulty with an ACE IT high school instructor that is not red seal, yet our success rate proves you do not need a Red Seal to teach level one. It would be great if colleges and high-schools worked together by in-servicing high-school teachers with skills to teach ACE IT programs. With some ITA funding, maybe colleges might be interested.
- High schools require teachers to have a teaching degree, where colleges require a Professional Instructors diploma. If a high school hires a non qualified Trades instructor, then they will always be temporary.
- Class size must be kept small, 16 - 18 students to 1 instructor. We need targeted funding to create this.
- Materials costs are considerable, please see below for a breakdown.
- Often hard to get a cohort group of 16. We average 14 students per year.
- Colleges are territorial.
- Equipment to run the program.

- Prior to setting up our own program we only had 1 ACE IT AST student enrolled at NIC.
- Students seem to prefer to take a Trades program locally taught by a high school Technology Education teacher (look at the number of students in district ACE IT programs compared to the number that take a foundation program).
- Enthusiastic teachers that want to teach the ACE IT programs, and support to ensure the quality of instruction.

Actual practice:

Our partnership with VCC costs us \$5,000 per year through a service agreement. They share their moodle online tests and resource materials for our instructor and students. This is very helpful to keep consistent with what is taught at VCC so our students are exposed to the same standards and materials. Originally this was going to be the “epprentice” program. A VCC representative comes over twice a year and does practical examinations of our students. All our students write the standardized ITA exam, which we appreciated as it levels the playing field for everyone. Colleges hold the reins on high schools trying to set up an ACE IT program. If a local Post Secondary Institution does not want to be a Technical Training Partner it creates a huge challenge for a school district.

Shop supplies run approximately \$5,000 per year.

The smaller class size, from 25:1 to 16:1, costs the district approximately 36% more to run. Roughly 36% of a teachers salary of \$35,000 (half year salary) = \$12,500

Costs are roughly $\$5,000 + \$12,500 + \$5,000 = \$22,500$

School District personnel time to help promote, support on work experience placements, ITA administration, etc. Each school has staff that assist with finding and working with students interested in ACE IT programs. The cost to a district would be roughly \$15,000 spread between teacher and coordinator time.

Total cost for running the ACE IT AST program in our district is $\$22,500 + \$15,000 = \mathbf{\$37,500}$

ITA funding

The ITA funds ACE IT students at \$1,000 for starting, and another \$1,000 upon successful completion.

Our district ACE IT programs rarely have full cohorts.

14 students, with approximately 10 passing = $\$14,000 + \$10,000 = \$24,000$

It costs districts more to run a program than funded for.

Recommendation: Increase funding for in district ACE IT programs.

Setting up a new ACE IT program

Following is the anticipated costs for setting up a new ACE IT Carpentry program in district.

ACE IT Carpentry

Initial facilities upgrade to teach the program:

Paving site, chainlink fencing, Wood storage shed, Materials, Tools, Books **\$50,000**

Program running costs:

- Smaller class sizes (from above) \$12,500
- Consumable Materials \$8,000
- District staffing requirements \$15,000
- College tuition (roughly 14 students) \$8,400
- Yearly Operating costs **\$45,500**

ITA ACE IT anticipated funding $14 \times \$2,000 = \$28,000$. Not enough to truly cover the costs to set up and run an ACE IT carpentry program.

Campbell River ran a very successful Carpentry program out of Carihi Secondary School. They effectively passed 14 ACE IT carpentry students each year, where previously none were trained as there was no college foundation program in their district. We would like to set up the same program in our district but will meet many of the challenges typically faced by school districts when trying to set up ACE IT programs.

This program will have a different structure than the AST program in our district. The AST program runs Monday to Thursday, for a full semester immersion. The Carpentry program would be set up to run 2 blocks per semester and take place over a longer time period. The reason for this is to accommodate the schools desire to keep the woodwork shop open for other students throughout the year, rather than closing the shop for a semester as with our AST program. Flexibility to set up programs that fit a district is key to getting people on board.

We anticipate being able to run 14 students through per year. Our average number of Carpentry students that we have sent to NIC foundation programs over the last 3 years is 3 students per year. Hosting an ACE IT program in district profoundly increases the number of students wanting to take trades training programs because teachers promote it more and students are exposed to the programs.

Challenge: Our main challenge will be the connection with the Technical Training Partner in order to even be able to run the program.

Recommendations/suggestions:

- ITA to help with the relationship between the Technical Training Partnerships
- Funding for program start up, infrastructure
- Increase funding for in district ACE IT programs
- Increase Technology Education teacher knowledge and skills by providing training and support. This would logically occur at colleges

The next step

Goal: To track and assist youth to continue their apprenticeship after level 1

Proposal: The ITA fund school districts to track their ACE IT grads and provide assistance and guidance in job hunting, continued apprenticeship training and assistance with getting signed up as an apprentice.

Background:

Through discussions with the ITA it has been established that many of the students that take a foundation program disappear and it seems no one is tracking these students. The school district seems like the logical entity to do this. Our mandate in the education system cuts off working with students once they graduate. However in the case of ACE IT students, it would make more sense to continue the coaching and assistance our Career centres provide to these youth. The relationship has already been created and established. It just needs to be maintained. The ITA would know exactly what trades students are doing, be it moving to another province, moving to a job, students not being able to get a sponsor, or if a student has decided to move to a different trade or just decided to pursue a different occupation.

For example please see the data provided on our past ACE IT students provided in the excel spreadsheet. This is very minimal because it is not current practice where we track our past grads. With some targeted funding, it could be a great source of information for the ITA.

Suggested funding: The funding could be attached to the SSA grants that have been used in the past, or with individual funding, such as “work based training” funding that is applied for. SSA grants should be given to all districts wanting one.