Agriculture Education Specialist

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Job Description: The Agriculture Education Specialist manages the review, revision and/or creation of content and curriculum, implementing professional development, and providing assistance to school corporations, area Career and Technical Education (CTE) districts, and other agencies and individuals regarding courses and programs in the Agriculture, Agribusiness and Natural Resources career areas at the Indiana Department of Education. Specialist provides vision and leadership to expand the rigor and relevance of the Ag Education curriculum and to connect Ag Education with the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Specialist also works with the Department’s Mathematics Specialist to find/design and implement strategies that foster greater math competency of secondary students by integrating academics into Career and Technical Education courses. Incumbent serves as the Department’s liaison to Indiana’s FFA and Indiana Young Farmers Associations, assists with required site visit reviews, and manages college and career preparation projects and other duties as assigned. The purpose of this work is to improve student academic achievement, graduation rates and attainment of dual credits, industry-recognized credentials or technical certificates.

General Duties:
This position involves (but is not limited to) the following specific duties and responsibilities:

Curriculum and Career Pathway Development
- Works with the Indiana College and Career Pathways project to oversee development of sequences of secondary and postsecondary courses in the Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources and Government & Public Administration content areas and career clusters.
- Researches and revises curricula to improve courses, course standards, titles and descriptions in this content area.
- Develops rigorous standards or updates existing standards for CTE courses within this content area including integration of academic standards and 21st Century Skills.
- Oversees creation of new CTE courses, where needed, for College and Career Pathways in this content area.
- Assists in developing clear, seamless College and Career Pathways between secondary and postsecondary courses and programs.
- Assists with the identification of dual credits, industry-recognized credentials or technical certificates in this content area and assists with creating buy-in among secondary and postsecondary education partners.
- Provides related professional development to content area teachers related to the Pathways.
- Manages development and/or identification of secondary end-of-course assessments (ECAs), dual credit ECAs, and industry-based certifications or credentials.
• Assists with development and/or identification of end-of-pathway assessments (EPAs)
• Promotes the development of education/business/industry/labor partnerships and expansion of dual credit agreements with institutions of higher education.
• Serves on related industry boards and tasks forces that directly affect Indiana students interested in College and Career Pathways.

Agriculture Education
• Provides regular and timely assistance to Agriculture Education teachers through e-mail, phone, and Learning Connection correspondence including information about:
  o Funding formulas based on student enrollments
  o Teacher resources and information regarding agricultural education summer school
  o Integration of core subject standards with agriculture education standards
  o Innovative use of technology
  o Using progressive technology for global connectivity of students
• Collaborates on curriculum review and development with other CTE content areas, with math, science and English/language arts consultants, business and industry, and universities to:
  o Significantly expand integration of academics (STEM) into CTE courses and programs
  o Aligning CTE coursework with End-of-Program assessments, dual credit end of course assessments, and technical certifications and credentials for each College & Career Pathway
• Facilitates training and continual professional development including:
  o Organizing and conducting New Agriculture Education Teacher Academy,
  o Providing Ag Teacher in-services in January and in June (after the Indiana IAAE regional conference)
  o Assisting with twelve district kickoffs which include Agricultural Education in-services
  o Presenting current Agricultural Education materials and topics to Purdue University (YDAE) agricultural education undergraduates
  o Providing Agriculture Education teachers professional development at Indiana ACTE conference, and provide leadership at NAAE and ACTE conferences
  o Leading the state Advanced Life Science (ALS) course training and continual education
  o Regularly evaluating agricultural education classrooms and laboratories
  o Presenting at IACTED Summer Conference in June,
  o Annually surveying teachers, students, business and industry, and post-secondary institutions to identify state agricultural education needs,
  o Working with National Agricultural Education and content area teachers in self-assessing programs for nationally-identified, high quality program standards
• Serves as Indiana’s State FFA Advisor and the Department’s liaison for Indiana Young Farmers Association (IYFA).
• Collaborate with Team Ag Ed and manage curriculum development and refinement project and contract with CSA Tracker.
• Work with schools to develop new Agricultural Education program and to recruit and retain current Ag Education teachers.
• Assist FFA and IYFA with Indiana State Fair interactive educational exhibit.
• Assist with National FFA Convention.

Mathematics Academic Integration
• Work with IDOE Math Specialist and other content area specialists to implement or expand programs that foster greater math competency among Indiana secondary students.
School Assistance

- Provides information and assistance to school and area district personnel in areas such as the selection of instructional materials, developing programs/curriculum, identifying equipment needs, implementing staff development programs, interpreting rules/policies and other requested areas in this content area.
- Assists, as needed, with required site monitoring visits.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:
Bachelor’s Degree or higher and three years professional work experience (preferred) as an educator in Agriculture Education, Mathematics or other Career and Technical Education areas. Knowledge of FFA, Young Farmers Association, math education, and Perkins desired. Incumbent should be able to:

- Organize and manage multiple projects simultaneously, meeting expectations and deadlines for each.
- Communicate effectively (both orally and in writing) with groups of varying age levels and backgrounds, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, postsecondary and business/industry representatives.
- Develop/implement action plans, including budgeting and accounting of assigned projects.
- Work cooperatively as a team member with other CTE and IDOE staff.
- Design and review applications submitted for funding local curriculum and professional development activities.
- Provide state-level leadership by serving as a resource to schools throughout the state, area career and technical education districts, and other agencies and/or groups.
- Provide consultative services to local school and district personnel in such areas as: equipment, instructional materials, facilities, curriculum, professional development activities, rule interpretation, waiver requests.
- Utilize available technologies to prepare documents, conduct research, and design strategies for adaptation/adopton of innovative programs and curricula.
- Design/implement professional development activities for teachers, counselors, and administrators.
- Travel as required by the position

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