

# *Kankakee Area Regional Vocational Education System*

## *KARVES*

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KARVES is what is called an Education For Employment System, specifically, EFE #120 with the State of Illinois. EFE Systems were founded by the Illinois State Board of Education in 1985 under intergovernmental agreements between participating school districts.

EFE's, like ours, is a regional system designed to administer the efficient delivery of career and technical education (CTE). A Joint Agreement, between our ten member schools created the entity of both KARVES and KACC.

Our Member Districts Include: Beecher, Bourbonnais, Bradley, Grant Park, Herscher, Kankakee, Momence, Manteno, Peotone and St. Anne.

The purpose of an EFE is to:

- provide leadership, support, and technical assistance for K-12 career and technical education (CTE) programs
- manage state and federal resources designed to deliver quality CTE programs in an efficient manner
- submit and administer career and technical education related grants and disperse funds and services to member districts
- provide curriculum and program development
- provide staff professional development opportunities for teachers, counselors and administrators
- collect data to provide assistance in the areas of accountability and the development of performance standards
- assist schools with technology and equipment updates
- provide the infrastructure for linking K-12 education with community colleges/universities, business, and industry
- provide assistance to CTE "Special Populations" students. This includes students who are academically, financially, educationally, or physically disadvantaged
- enable all students to be prepared for employment, continuing education, and productive citizenship in today's global market

KARVES Administrative Board of Control is comprised of ten superintendents from our members schools, the I-KAN ROE superintendent, and one school board member from each of the member schools and a representative from Kankakee Community College. This Board meets quarterly, typically on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday evening of March, May, August, and November at 6:00 p.m.

Some of the many ways we specifically fulfill our purpose as stated above are:

1. Providing leadership, support and technical assistance for K-8, not only do we provide printed materials and informational magazines for students to support the K-8 programs, we have provided Egg-Drop Technology program for 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Awareness Days and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Construction Expo. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade programs typically bring anywhere from 1,200 to 1,500 8<sup>th</sup> graders to an event to help introduce them to myriad careers
2. The KARVES staff manages state and federal resources designed to deliver the CTE programs in an efficient manner. The grants administered are:
  - CTEI
  - Perkins
  - Elementary
  - Program of Study
  - Agricultural Incentive Grants
3. Curriculum and program development, provide staff professional development opportunities for teachers, counselors and administrators. Ways in which we do this are:
  - Student Services Committee Meetings Quarterly
  - In-service training programs for KACC Instructors
  - Financial support for Connections Conference
  - POS & EFE Annual CTE Appreciation Dinner
  - with Educational Guest Speaker
4. Provide assistances to CTE Special Populations, including those who are academically, financially, educationally, or physical disadvantaged:
  - Learning Center Tutors for Career Center Students
  - Outreach Tutor Program in the member high schools
  - Career Counseling at BBCHS
5. Link EFE system to business community through
  - KARVES Advisory Board, comprised of school board members, superintendents and general community businesspersons.
  - Director's active involvement with Workforce Development Board.
  - Work with local community colleges for Dual Credit Opportunities
6. Monitor data on CTE students via SIS on behalf high schools throughout our district. Through SIS information, we are able to provide assistance as well as accountability to ensure area schools have teachers who meet CTE qualifications as well as provide assistance in the development of performance standards. Within SIS, there are specific CIP Codes and program levels in order for students to complete a "Program of Study." Schools receive funds for approved CTE courses All training level CTE

instructors must have a minimum of 2,000 documented hours working specifically in the field they are teaching. The KARVES office will request on an annual basis for proof of 2,000 hours for any new instructor in a training level program to ensure we receive the documentation.

7. The Regional plan for CTE outlining the 7 components and the 5-year Rotation for CTE Programs within our delivery system are prepared and monitored by KARVES.