

Education Programs:

- **STEM** - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics - The 2010-2011 school year marked the first full year of implementation. STEM plans included advanced leadership training and teacher professional development, expansion of advanced placement courses in math and science, and incorporating more technology, like social media, into classroom activities.
- **CTE** - Career and Technical Education - Many of the districts' plans for CTE aim to increase the number of industry-based courses offered, and provide professional development opportunities for the teachers of those courses.
- **CENLA Work Ready Network** - The Cenla Work Ready Network is a system designed to link education with workforce development efforts and to align them with regional economic needs. Key components include Career Ready 101, a career training course that prepares students for certification with a WorkKeys Assessment.
- **Career Ready 101** - a web-based, career training course that prepares students for certification with WorkKeys assessments.
- **Industry Based Certifications (IBCs)** - Through an Industry-Based Certification (IBC) students have the opportunity to receive extra training and employability skills in a certain industry or business, like construction or certain medical fields.
- **WorkKeys Assessment** - WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system that measures foundational and soft skills. Assessment through WorkKeys can lead to earning the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC).
- **National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)** - a portable, evidence-based credential that measures essential workplace skills and is a reliable predictor of workplace success. The NCRC Plus adds a soft skills component that links personal characteristics to work-related behaviors. The Network also provides assistance to high schools for the development of Industry-Based Certifications (IBCs).
- **CART** - the Central Louisiana Academic Residency for Teachers. The CART partnership between LSU, LSUA, The Rapides and Orchard Foundations, and the nine Cenla districts, was awarded a U.S. Department of Education Teacher Quality Partnership grant. The purpose of the program is to dramatically increase the number of mathematics and science teachers in high-needs high schools who are qualified to teach AP/Dual Enrollment coursework. The five-year program combines current research and best practices for teacher recruitment, preparation, induction and support in rural schools. Residents are offered a tuition-free LSU Master of Natural Science degree, including teacher certification, and provided a \$35,000 stipend for the one year residency period. Their commitment is to teach for at least three years in their host district.
- **Advanced Placement/Dual Enrollment**
- **Discovery Learning Science Model** - Discovery Learning is designed for students to take a more hands-on approach to learning, such as group projects and hands-on experimentation. The Discovery Learning Science model will be expanded to seventh and eighth grades, and an additional eight elementary schools will be using the Discovery Science SCIENCE TECH BOOK instead of a regular textbook. The SCIENCE TECH BOOK is an online textbook that can be accessed on the internet from any computer. It is customized to Louisiana science standards and includes reading materials, interactive activities, quizzes and tests, along with teacher resources.
- **Career Compass of Louisiana** - Based in Baton Rouge, Career Compass of Louisiana is an educational nonprofit dedicated to helping high school students in their post-secondary endeavors. Its mission is to remove obstacles that would keep students from succeeding following high school graduation. Career Compass holds grade-specific seminars for students in 11th and ninth grades. Juniors learn about the ACT and other college requirements. Ninth

graders are taught to start preparing for life after high school.

- **ACT Work Ready Communities Academy** - In Avoyelles and Rapides parishes, the school district is not the only group that recognizes the value of the Cenla Work Ready Network - the broader community has also embraced it. Community leadership teams in those parishes recently learned they were accepted into a county-level pilot program of the ACT Work Ready Communities Academy. They are two of only 16 counties nationwide accepted into the 12-month Academy. A community leadership team typically consists of representatives from local chambers of commerce, economic development groups, school boards, elected offices, civic organizations and businesses. Starting in October 2013, the community teams will attend Academy sessions to learn how to shape a strategy to match people to jobs, align workforce goals to economic development, and link education and workforce together to improve skill levels. Upon completion of the Academy and implementation of the strategy, the community leadership team will have successfully established a sustainable, parish-based Certified Work Ready Community effort.
- **CENIA Jobinator** - The Jobinator was created to get young people interested in the Cenla Work Ready Network. Realizing teenagers are a tough audience, the Jobinator is intended to relate to teens in a way that adults sometimes can't. He's funny, and he gets students to think about their futures. The Jobinator made 26 appearances in Central Louisiana high schools during the 2012-13 school year, and more appearances are planned. He shows up during lunch, catching students when they're hanging out in small groups. He has his own website- Cenlajobinator.com - as well as a presence on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. He uses language that teens understand and can relate to. On his website he says, "Are you sick of hearing this question? What are you doing after high school? UGH." His social media posts are silly: "Not a good idea to eat Oreos before a job interview. Trust me on this." Or, "One interview question you must never ask: When is nap time?" But his words all drive home the simple message that if you want a successful job or career after high school, you need to have the skills.

Potential Partners:

- **Rapides Foundation** - The mission of The Rapides Foundation is to improve the health status of Central Louisiana. **Our vision** is to positively impact Central Louisiana by deploying resources to improve key factors of health status. The level of educational attainment is related to health status. Research tells us that when people are more educated, their health is better. For that reason, the Foundation devotes 25 percent of its spending to its Education Initiative. We focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) in the nine Central Louisiana school districts. One of the core strategies for these efforts is providing professional development and leadership opportunities for teachers and school leaders throughout Cenla. Without solid and appropriate education, a community will remain stagnant. Good education cannot happen without teachers still being willing to be the student. For the past several years, The Rapides Foundation has used this idea to increase student achievement in Central Louisiana. Recently, the Foundation shifted its focus to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and career and technical education (CTE).
- **Orchard Foundation** - The Orchard Foundation is a nonprofit local education fund established by The Rapides Foundation as a resource for Central Louisiana. It works with school districts, businesses and communities to improve educational opportunities in a nine parish service area. Its mission is to improve academic achievement for Central Louisiana students by promoting best practices; recruiting, retaining, and rewarding excellent and innovative teachers; building school leadership; and strengthening school and community relationships.