Transforming Your Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment Into an **Instrument for Change**

The *Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act* requires career and technical education (CTE) providers to conduct a biannual Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) to evaluate and identify strategies to improve program quality and student performance. Applying an inclusive, data-informed approach can promote development of a shared vision and systemwide plan that will inspire educators to act and guide their improvement efforts.

We believe that educators need timely, actionable data and coordinated support when conducting a CLNA to produce a plan that will strengthen CTE programs and ensure equitable access and outcomes for students. Our team of nationally recognized CTE experts has designed a professional development experience to build educators' capacity to understand and apply CTE data and research. Tools and activities actively engage participants in learning and practicing new skills. Trainings are organized around site data—compiled and analyzed by Education Northwest researchers—to document student participation, persistence, and attainment in CTE programming.

OUR CUSTOMIZED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EXPERIENCE IS:

- ▶ **Designed in partnership with site leaders**
- ▶ **Based on site data**
- ▶ **Grounded in equity principles**
- ▶ **Aligned to federal and state requirements**
- ▶ **Tailored to community contexts**
- ▶ **Backed by evidence-based strategies**
- ▶ **Evaluated using measurable benchmarks**

The result is a CLNA tuned to site conditions and an accompanying one-page strategic plan that staff can use to initiate, monitor, and sustain districtwide improvement. We transform a compliance-driven exercise into a meaningful professional development experience that empowers educators.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
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LEARNING THAT LASTS

Our four facilitated, half-day workshops combine content presentations with structured activities to actively engage participants. Summary data tables, strategic planning templates, and handouts are provided to sustain work following each training.

WORKSHOP 1

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in CTE: What It Is and Why It Matters

A foundation-setting training to introduce participants to principles of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility (DEIA) in CTE, including:

- Defining terminology and DEIA concepts
- Understanding individual, systemic, and societal biases
- Applying an equity lens to frame CLNA activities
- Employing an asset-based approach to data

WORKSHOP 2

Gap Analysis: Understanding Persistence and Attainment

We train staff to analyze disaggregated site data to guide CLNA work, including:

- Understanding federal and state performance indicators
- Prioritizing student participation, persistence, and attainment gaps
- Assessing district, school, and program-level data

WORKSHOP 3

Root Cause Analysis: Why Things Occur

Participants learn and conduct an analysis to determine the influencing factors of observed participation, persistence, and attainment gaps, including:

- Identifying overarching factors and associated causes
- Differentiating root from contributing causes
- Researching evidence-based strategies to structure interventions

WORKSHOP 4

Operational Planning: Taking Strategic Action

Participants apply culturally responsive practices to translate data analytics into a one-page action plan that includes:

- Setting goals for structuring improvement efforts
- Defining strategies and associated activities to guide work
- Creating measurable benchmarks to monitor progress

Our collaboration will produce a CLNA aligned to federal requirements and customized to increase student participation, persistence, and attainment in CTE.

BENEFITS FOR STUDENTS

- Access to higher quality CTE programming
- Improved educational experiences and attainment
- More equitable learning options
- Smoother transitions to college and careers

BENEFITS FOR EDUCATORS

- Understanding of how to use data to improve programs
- Development of professional skills and agency
- Greater engagement and work satisfaction
- Improved instructional effectiveness

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