

Career and Technical Education Program of Study in General Education

Background

Enacted in 2022, [section 1504-K\(a\)](#) of the School Code charged the Department of Education with developing a Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program of Study (POS) study for high school students interested in careers in education.

The program, which is called “General Education,” falls under the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code 13.0101. In brief, the program focuses on the general theory and practice of learning and teaching, the basic principles of educational psychology, the art of teaching, the planning and administration of educational activities, school safety and health issues, and the social foundations of education.

Students enrolled in the program must meet technical competencies outlined in the [General Education POS task list](#) that was designed by the Committee on Education Talent Recruitment. In accordance with the law, the committee was a cross-sector group of secondary, postsecondary, and industry partners from the following entities:¹

- The Pennsylvania School Boards Association;
- The Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators;
- The Pennsylvania State Education Association;
- The American Federation of Teachers;
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators;
- The Center for Black Educator Development;
- The Pennsylvania Coalition of Public Charter Schools;
- The Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators; and
- The Pennsylvania Association of School Business Officials.

The General Education POS was added to the list of eligible [Career and Technical Education programs](#) in 2023, making the program for federal Perkins funding and the state secondary CTE subsidy. As such, any public high school, charter school, or career and technical center may apply to PDE to offer the program.

Since launching two years ago, 30 public schools representing 19 counties have PDE approval to offer the General Education POS; three additional schools are seeking approval.

- 22 school districts
- 9 Occupational CTCs
- 2 Comprehensive CTC

¹ Pennsylvania Department of Education, “[Competency Task List – Secondary Component – General Education](#).”

Table 1: Public schools offering or proposing to offer CTE: General Education Program

LEA Name	County
Admiral Peary AVTS	Cambria
Berwick Area SD	Columbia
Bloomsburg Area SD	Columbia
Butler Area SD	Butler
California Area SD	Washington
Carlisle Area SD*	Cumberland
Central Columbia SD	Columbia
Central Westmoreland CTC	Westmoreland
Chester-Upland SD	Delaware
Conewago Valley SD	Adams
Delaware County Technical High School	Delaware
Fayette County Career & Technical Institute	Fayette
Greater Johnstown CTC	Cambria
Greater Johnstown SD	Cambria
Keystone Central CTC	Clinton
Lancaster SD	Lancaster
Lawrence County CTC*	Lawrence
Lebanon SD*	Lebanon
Lehigh Career & Technical Institute	Lehigh
Milton Area SD	Northumberland
Northern Westmoreland CTC	Westmoreland
Philadelphia City SD	Philadelphia
Philadelphia City SD	Philadelphia
Pittsburgh SD	Allegheny
River Valley SD	Indiana
Saint Mary's Area SD	Elk
Shikellamy SD	Northumberland
Somerset County Technology Center	Somerset
Southern Columbia Area SD	Columbia
State College Area SD	Centre
Warrior Run SD	Northumberland
Williamsport Area SD	Lycoming
York Co School of Technology	York
*In development for school year 2025-26	

The General Education POS has flexible staffing guidelines that allow schools to use [22 types of educators](#) to serve as the teacher of record for the program coursework. Across the General Education programs being offered currently, schools are staffing courses with nine different types of certifications with 7-12 Mathematics and 7-12 Social Studies certifications being the most popular.

The General Education POS includes opportunities for students to earn college credit through articulation agreements with colleges and universities and to begin working toward a

postsecondary credential or degree before they graduate high school. Currently, the General Education POS has 19 programs generating local articulations and/or dual credit agreements with local colleges and universities. These partnerships include five local community colleges, three private universities and the Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania.

Program Evaluation

[Section 1504-K\(d\)](#) of the School Code directs the State Board of Education to evaluate the efficacy of the program within one year of it being offered and at least every three years thereafter. The Board's evaluation must include disaggregated enrollment and participation data by Every Student Succeeds Act subgroups², as well as a description of the evaluation process.

For the purpose of evaluating the efficacy of the CTE General Education POS over time, the State Board of Education will consider the following data metrics as suggested by the Department of Education:

Metric	Data Source
Number of PDE-approved CTE General Education Programs of Study, by county, school type, and delivery model	PDE Bureau of CTE
Number of students enrolled in CTE-General Education Programs of Study	PIMS
Number of CTE-General Education Concentrators. ³	PIMS
Number of CTE-General Education Completers ⁴	PIMS
Number/Percentage of graduating CTE-General Education Concentrators who successfully score at or above the Competent Level on the NOCTI Job Ready Occupational Specific Assessment for General Education ⁵	PIMS/BCTE
Number of CTE-General Education Completers earning Students Occupationally and Academically Ready (SOAR) credits.	PIMS
Number/Percentage of CTE-General Education Concentrators graduating from high school having attained a recognized postsecondary credential. ⁶	PIMS/BCTE

² Section 111(c)(2) of ESSA identifies the following student groups: students from major racial and ethnic groups; economically disadvantaged students, children with disabilities; and English learners. States also report and disaggregate information for student who are homeless; who are in foster care; and whose parents serve in the Armed Forces or National Guard.

³ Perkins V CTE Concentrator is a student who completes at least two state-defined CTE courses. Pennsylvania defines a CTE course as a minimum of 240 technical instructional hours as planned per year in a PDE-approved CTE program. Completing at least 480 technical instructional hours is required for one-year CTE programs approved by PDE.

⁴ CTE completer is a student who completed all secondary-level competencies on the task list identified as part of the approved CTE program (or met appropriate related IEP objectives), completed a PDE-approved occupational end-of-program assessment for the student's reported program CIP (or completed a program that has an assessment waiver) - students with an IEP participating in PASA are exempt from this occupational assessment requirement if the PASA is documented in the IEP, and attained a high school diploma or equivalent.

⁵ Perkins V State Plan State Determined Performance Level (5S4)

⁶ Perkins V State Plan State Determined Performance Level (5S1)

Metric	Data Source
Number and type of industry recognized credentials earned by CTE-General Education Completers prior to graduating high school	PIMS/BCTE
Number/Percentage of CTE-General Education Concentrators who enrolled in postsecondary education. ⁷	PIMS
Number/Percentage of CTE-General Education Completers enrolled in PDE-approved educator preparation programs within 18 months of high school graduation ⁸	PIMS
Number/Percentage of CTE-General Education Completers that earn an education-related credential within 6 years ⁹ of high school graduation, including educator certification in Pennsylvania	TIMS
Number of CTE-General Education Completers working in a Pennsylvania public school within 6 years of high school graduation.	PIMS

It will take at least six years to compile the necessary data to set the baselines for each metric listed above. As such, the establishment of initial baselines for these metrics will use a two- or three-year average, recognizing that the program has only been offered for two school years and enrollment is still small. Further, metrics that include data disaggregated by ESSA student subgroups or by school will not be reported if the N count for the measure is below 11.

⁷ Perkins V State Plan State Determined Performance Level (3S1) Postsecondary Placement is the percentage of CTE concentrators who, in the second quarter after exiting from secondary education, are in postsecondary education or advanced training, military service or a service program that receives assistance under Title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12511 et seq.), are volunteers as described in section 5(a) of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504(a)) or are employed.

⁸ U.S. Department of Education requires States to report postsecondary enrollment within 16 months of high school graduation, disaggregated by ESSA student group.

⁹ 150% of the time required to complete a 4-year bachelor's degree