

Plan for Career and Technical Education

The Career and Technical Education Program in Pittsylvania County is standing at the threshold of change. Up to now, it has met the needs and demands of students with traditional programs in the area of Vocational Education. Along with a new name comes a new vision for Career and Technical Education in the county.

This vision encompasses a number of recommendations for program improvements, such as new course offerings, use of technology, training and retention of personnel, and services provided to students and teachers that will improve the Career and Technical Education Program throughout the county.

Upon review of the current program, the following objectives and strategies were developed for improvement:

Objective-Focus efforts on training of existing CTE teachers

Strategies:

- Add more days to contract time to allow teachers to attend summer conferences
- Promote summer conferences for all CTE teachers to attend
- Provide workshops for CTE teachers and guidance counselors
- Establish partnerships with Business and Industry for CTE areas
- Increase the amount of tuition assistance

Objective-Continue to ensure that CTE courses are aligned with Standards of Learning and industry certifications

Strategies:

- Meet annually to review and update curriculum to include emerging technologies
- Offer rewards for CTE students who successfully complete industry certification testing
- Ensure that all CTE teachers be registered with Virginia Education Resource System Online (VERSO)
- Work to increase certification testing for programs without industry certification
- Offer local program completer diploma seal

Objective-Provide leadership within division to increase opportunities for middle and high school students to enroll in CTE courses

Strategies:

- Increase number of electives needed for graduation
- Expand CTE course offerings in response to industry projections for Pittsylvania County and surrounding areas
- Work with businesses and local colleges to offer scholarships to CTE students
- Provide training to guidance counselors about CTE programs

Objective-Reinforce the importance of reading, writing, and math as skills vital to the success of all students through CTE courses

Strategies:

- Use a variety of instructional materials, utilizing reading and writing skills including textbooks, technical manuals, and other resources
- Offer professional development workshops for CTE teachers focusing on reading, writing, testing, and higher order thinking skills
- Implement a CTE math course that would benefit all CTE programs

Objective-Continue to promote CTE student organization in all middle and high schools

Strategies:

- Provide compensation for CTE student organization advisors
- Establish a CTE student organization foundation
- Include student organization information in CTE course outline

Objective-Structure CTE programs to meet the needs of diverse learners including at risk students, students with limited English proficiency, students with disabilities, and gifted students

Strategies:

- Continue to support the Standards of Learning and the No Child Left Behind Act
- Increase the number of completers in CTE programs
- Continue to monitor program completers through follow-up surveys

Objective-Support the use of existing and emerging technology to deliver services and provide information to students and CTE teachers

Strategies:

- Implement division wide communication to CTE instructors using Blackboard software
- Increase the amount of instructional allotments to defray rising costs
- Expand opportunities for CTE students through the use of innovative technology to become technologically literate
- Provide training for CTE teachers in existing and emerging technological fields and offer this training to students through the development of new and innovative courses

Objective-Implement a career plan in the middle school and build upon it throughout high school for each student

Strategies:

- Expand CTE programs to include more cooperative education experiences, mentoring opportunities, internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing to assist students in preparation of career portfolios
- Implement the use of Career Web sites (i.e. Virginia View and Kuder.com) through CTE programs and guidance
- Develop career pathways for students with parental and CTE instructors involvement
- Assist students in developing and maintaining career portfolios