

QUESTIONS ON NYS P-TECH

GRANT FUNDING

1. What is the timeframe for the first payments for NYS P-TECH grant program?

At this time, there is no scheduled timeframe for first payments for awards under this grant program. All efforts are being made to expedite this process.

2. Can a grant recipient amend its budgets?

Yes. Once all budgets are approved and processed by the NYSED Grants Finance Office, a grant recipient may choose to amend its budget with prior approval from NYSED. However, programs will be required to notify the NYSED Program Coordinator of their intention to amend their budget and submit a FS-10-A form. The FS-10 forms can be found at the following link:

<http://www.oms.nysed.gov/cafe/forms/>.

3. What are the reporting and program requirements for Year 1 to qualify for funding in subsequent years?

Page 15 of the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the P-TECH program outlines the minimum performance and reporting requirements for the grant, including those for Year 1. To review the required reporting requirements for Year 1, please see page 15 of the RFP at the following link: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2013-20-nys-p-tech/home.html>

STUDENT FUNDING AND REGISTERS

4. If this is a six year program, will students generate state operating aid in years 5 & 6?

Yes, students who remain in the program will generate state operating aid in years 5 and 6. Students will be treated as pupils under the current statutory aid formulas until they graduate (i.e., receive a high school diploma) in year 6.

5. Is it necessary for students to be recruited for the 9th grade? Can we wait until the spring of 10th grade to identify students to begin the program for

their junior year?

Yes, students need to be recruited and enrolled in the program beginning in the 9th grade. As explained on page 9 of the RFP, one of the program requirements is to provide a six-year (grades nine-twelve, plus two years of postsecondary instruction) curriculum that is sequential and integrates academic and CTE instruction. Therefore, students must begin participating in the six-year program in the 9th grade. Students should have a strong sense of affiliation with the NYS P-TECH program and its college-going environment.

6. Should all students, beginning with 9th grade, attend one location for NYS P-TECH?

While not a grant requirement, a single, physical location with designated faculty, whether a separate school or a school-within-a-school structure, is the Department's preferred mode because it would seem to be the most efficient and direct means to ensure all enrolled students experience the same college-going culture, innovative academic coursework and scheduling that leverages the career focus and offers workplace and technical learning. In addition, the Department believes that a single-site school model offers the best opportunity to produce optimal results for the students, faculty, and business partners involved. All programs will need to demonstrate that they meet the goals of the P-TECH Program, which are outlined on pages 8 - 10 of the RFP. Therefore, programs with more than one site should demonstrate plans to utilize methods such as virtual learning, innovative scheduling, and other support services to align as closely as possible with the goals of the P-Tech program.

7. If a district places a student outside the district for purposes of attending a P-TECH program hosted by another district, will students remain enrolled in their home district or must they be enrolled in the district that is hosting the P-TECH program? Which district/school will be held accountable for these students? Which district will grant a diploma and have the other district-level responsibilities for these students?

In the situation where a district places a student outside of the district for purposes of attending a P-TECH program hosted by another district, the student remains enrolled in the home district.

The home district will be accountable for that student for institutional accountability purposes. However, no school within the home district will be accountable for the student.

Thus, for example, when the Department makes a determination about whether a district should be a Focus District, the Department will include students who are in a P-TECH program outside of the home district in making that determination for the home school district, but no school within the district will be held accountable for these students.

The home district will issue the high school diploma for the student.

8. If a BOCES is the Implementing Lead, can the BOCES grant the diploma? Can the BOCES serve as the student's school district for other issues as well?

No, a BOCES has no authority to issue a diploma. A BOCES can serve in a coordinating role, but it is not a school district and cannot assume the responsibilities of the student's home school district.

9. How will districts and BOCES determine the cost per student attending a program outside of their home district?

Participating districts should review the actual marginal cost of providing the NYS P-TECH program in the host district and agree upon reasonable terms.

10. Are costs for NYS P-TECH eligible for CO-SER funding?

Home districts that create a P-TECH program using existing Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) cooperative services agreements are eligible to receive BOCES Aid on those services provided that the home district is a component district of the BOCES. These districts may also use P-TECH grant funds to pay the local share of a BOCES service.

Please note that the Big 5 City school districts (New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Yonkers) are not eligible to be component districts of BOCES. Therefore, these districts will not be eligible for BOCES aid. Please note that BOCES will need to seek approval from the Commissioner for a P-TECH Co-Ser.

11. Will students graduate from high school after four years if they complete all requirements? Can they participate in high school graduation ceremonies and continue to be enrolled in the six year program?

The NYS P-TECH model allows students to complete their high school graduation requirements at their own pace within the six-year program. The Department anticipates that districts will structure the program in such a way that the high school diploma is issued simultaneous with the completion of the six-year P-TECH program or upon a student leaving the P-TECH program after completing all diploma requirements but before completing the six year program.

However, districts are encouraged to celebrate students' achievements, and a local decision can be made regarding student participation in high school graduation ceremonies if they have completed their graduation requirements after four years and are on track to complete the full six year program. However, there are State aid implications if the student is issued a diploma and graduates before the six-year program ends.

12. Will there be a special designation for institutional accountability purposes to account for P-TECH students who are completing their high school graduation requirements after four years and while they continue to be enrolled in and complete the remaining requirements for the six year program?

The Department is still working through the accountability designations that might be used to recognize that, by design, even students in good standing and progressing according to schedule in P-TECH programs will take longer to receive their high school diplomas than they might have done if they had undertaken a more traditional course of studies. Participating districts will be provided further information about this as it becomes available but, in the meantime, districts participating in P-TECH programs can be assured that their accountability status will not be jeopardized by their students not graduating from high school within four years.

13. Is there a consistent approach to reimburse eligible institutions of higher education for NYS P-TECH tuition?

Among the grant recipients, there are several different types of partnerships/arrangements within the P-TECH program. Therefore, there is no State-determined reimbursement methodology for higher

education institutions. However, all reimbursement costs should be outlined in the service agreements with colleges and NYSED recommends that the most cost-efficient method possible be used.

14. Will students be eligible for awards under the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)?

No, students will not be eligible for TAP awards because they will be considered enrolled in the high school of their home district and not the institution of higher education. Because they will be enrolled in their home school district, students will also be generating State aid while completing their college coursework in the P-TECH program.

15. Will NYS P-TECH serve students with special needs? English Language Learners?

Yes. The P-TECH Program is intended to serve students who meet certain criteria (see RFP language below), including those students with special needs and ELLs. Programs must ensure that students with disabilities who meet the eligibility criteria receive any special education services, accommodations, modifications and supplementary supports and services as recommended in their individualized education programs (IEPs).

As provided on page 9 of the P-TECH RFP at the following link, (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2013-20-nys-p-tech/home/html>) the NYS P-TECH program will prioritize partnerships that demonstrate the willingness and capacity to serve students who:

- **Have been identified as academically at-risk for not successfully completing high school or not enrolling in or succeeding in college;**
- **Belong to populations that have historically not had access to or success in higher education;**
- **May be identified as early as grade 6 to receive extensive support to achieve college-readiness by grades 9-12;**
- **Do not have the financial resources to fully fund an Associate degree without tuition assistance; and**
- **Are in attendance in a school district with Focus status as most recently determined by the State Education Department.**

16. Can there be academic criteria for recruitment and admission? Other admissions criteria?

The criteria for recruitment and admission are outlined on page 9 of the P-TECH RFP at: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/funding/2013-20-nys-p-tech/home.html>

HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE CREDITS

17. What is the process for a course at the community college to count towards a high school graduation requirement?

Pursuant to Education Law §§1709(3), 2503(3) and (4)(c) and 2554(1) and (11), a board of education has the power to prescribe the course of study by which pupils of schools shall be graded and classified. Therefore, the board of education can approve advanced college courses for high school credit and determine whether such courses meet the requirements for high school graduation (see also 8 NYCRR §100.2[q]).

18. Can college faculty teach courses to high school students in this program that are being credited toward high school graduation requirements?

Yes, however, the college faculty must be certified to teach the grades/subjects taught for high school credit or the college faculty must be otherwise eligible to teach those courses through incidental teaching pursuant to Part 80 of the Commissioner's regulations.

19. Can high school faculty teach courses that meet the requirements for an A.A.S degree?

High school faculty can obtain adjunct status at the partner college in order to teach courses that meet A.A.S. requirements.

20. Will students be able to receive credit for workplace learning experiences? What are the criteria and high school staffing requirements?

Yes, guidance on the criteria and requirements for Workplace Learning can be found in the Work Experience Manual- March 2013 Update at the following link:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/wbl/home.html>

STAFFING

21. Can industry professionals teach courses for high school credit? For college credit?

Industry professionals may teach courses for high school credit if they are properly certified and/or otherwise qualified to teach the grade/subject under Part 80 of the Commissioner's regulations.

22. Will there be any waivers from the annual professional performance review requirements of Education Law §3012-c for teachers/principals in the P-TECH program?

No. All P-TECH programs must comply with APPR.

PROGRAM APPROVALS

23. Will there be an expedited process to review and approve new and/or revised CTE programs offered in a P-TECH program?

**Yes, the Department plans to provide an expedited approval process for applications for approval of career and technical education programs for districts participating in the P-TECH program. Please visit the following link in the upcoming months for updated information on this expedited process:
<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/cte/ctepolicy/>.**

24. Will there be a separate process to review and approve the NYS P-TECH Six-Year Integrated Course of Study?

Yes, there will be a separate approval process for six-year integrated courses of study submitted under the P-TECH program. Requests for approval of these courses of study should be submitted to SED by email to NYSPTech@mail.nysed.gov no later than February 14, 2014.

25. Will there be an expedited process to review and approve new and/or revised degree programs at the Community College level?

For Programs that do not prepare licensed professionals:

The State Education Department's Office of College and University Evaluation (OCUE) reviews proposals for new college-level programs and revisions to currently approved registered programs at degree-granting institutions in New York State. OCUE is committed to a review of proposals within 30 working days of submission. If a proposal is incomplete, or issues are raised, the contact person identified in the proposal will be informed of the specific questions. Once contacted, institutions have 30 working days to provide a comprehensive response to the questions and resubmit the

proposal. If the proposal is not resubmitted within 30 working days or if identified items are not adequately addressed in the resubmission, the proposal will be withdrawn from further consideration.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the institution and considered withdrawn from further consideration.

Proposed programs requiring a master plan amendment or charter amendment will require additional time for review.

Please visit the following link for more information:

<http://www.highered.nysed.gov/ocue/aipr/home.html>

Program proposals leading to licensed professions will be reviewed by the Professional Education Program Review Unit in the Office of the Professions.

EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

26. What will be the measures for student success?

Student success will be measured in multiple ways. In addition to the district performance measures set forth in the annual School Report Card, the Department will develop additional measures specific to NYS P-TECH program such as: completion of college credits; completion of the A.A.S. degree; successful completion of internships; demonstration of workplace experience skills; and obtaining a job at the end of the program. Students who complete their requirements for a high school diploma and opt to attend a different post-secondary institution or four-year college will also be considered successful for purposes of evaluating for student success.

27. Can a student transfer from NYS P-TECH to another community college or a four-year college prior to completing the six year program?

Yes. The intention of the program is to expand opportunities for students. Students who fulfill the requirements for their high school diplomas and opt to attend a different post-secondary institution or four-year college will also be considered successful. However, if they choose to attend another institution, it will be at their own expense.

28. Can a student exit the program after completing high school graduation requirements but without completing the A.A.S. degree after 4 or 5 years?

Yes.

29. Is a student required to accept a job with one of the business partners?

No.

30. How do eligible applicants ensure that students still have the time and opportunities for summer jobs to earn needed funds?

Because of its six year design, the P-TECH program provides eligible applicants with flexibility in scheduling the required curriculum. No program is required to mandate student attendance throughout the summer or on weekends to fulfill the extended learning time requirement. As part of its contribution to the partnership, an industry partner may offer paid internships as part of the workplace experience. This design element is within the purview of each individual program and should reflect the socioeconomic needs of the participating students.