

Paul Laurence Dunbar High School Career Pathways Policy

CTE Pathways Policy

Background:

The Kentucky Board of Education approved revised Kentucky high school graduation requirements at their December, 2018 meeting. Under the new requirements, students must complete at least one of the graduation qualifier options in order to be eligible for a high school diploma. Additionally, KDE High School Accountability includes CTE pathway status in both the Transition Readiness and the Opportunity and Access categories.

Graduation Qualifiers:

Completion of one or more of the following graduation qualifiers:

1. Precollege curriculum as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13 KAR 2:020; or (currently 65-75% of PLD students attempt this)
2. Benchmark score in one section of a college admissions or placement examination as established by the Council on Postsecondary Education in 13KAR 2:020; or (currently 66% of PLD seniors meet this; 50% are college ready, 16% meet at least 1 BM)
3. Three postsecondary credit hours or more of a Kentucky Department of Education approved dual credit course with a grade of C or higher; or (currently 160 attempt English and 100 attempt math; all of these students also meet qualifier #2)
4. One course and corresponding assessment meeting the following criteria: (a) Advanced placement (AP) with a score of three or higher; or (b) Cambridge Advanced International (CAI) with a score at or above benchmark; or (c) International baccalaureate (IB) with a score of ve or higher; or (almost all students who score a 3+ on AP Exams meet qualifier #2)
5. Industry certification as approved by the Kentucky Workforce Innovation Board on an annual basis; or (DOES NOT include CTE EOP exams; almost all of the students who meet this also meet qualifier #2, currently 12 students are career ready only)
6. Four credits from valid courses within a single Kentucky Department of Education approved career pathway; or (currently approximately 50 students are eligible)
7. A Kentucky Department of Education approved process to verify 500 hours of exceptional work experience, or alternative requirements as prescribed in a student's IEP. (not currently available)

Previously, the only requirements for high school graduation were the successful completion of the basic high school curriculum and passing a citizenship test. KDE included college and/or career readiness in school accountability through Transition Readiness, but CTE was not included in graduation requirements or in school Opportunity and Access accountability.

School Accountability:

The KDE High School Accountability model includes points under Opportunity and Access for Career and Technical Education pathway completion. Points are awarded as follows based on the percentage of the total student population (grades 9-12) that has completed a CTE pathway by passing at least 4 pathway courses and passing the CTE EOP or industry certifications associated with the pathway:

- 10% or less = 0 points
- 11-25% = 1 point
- 26-49% = 2 points
- 50% or more = 3 points

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Schools need a very high percentage of their seniors to reach the completer status in order to earn points because the percentage is for the entire school population, not just for the senior class. PLD's current enrollment is 1979 students with the following breakdown:

- 9th grade 532 (27% of total)
- 10th grade 527 (27% of total)
- 11th grade 444 (22% of total)
- 12th grade 471 (24% of total)

To reach the 11-25% level for 1 point will require at least 46% of our senior class to reach completer status. Currently, PLD has fewer than 5% CTE pathway completion and fewer than 10% who become career ready by passing at least 3 pathway classes and passing the associated test.

Policy:

All students completing a schedule card for Paul Laurence Dunbar High School shall select at least one Career and Technical Education elective course each year with the goal of successfully completing 4 approved courses for a KDE-approved CTE pathway by graduation.

- The principal may approve individual 1-year exceptions if any of the following consume all available elective slots in a student's schedule:
 - Maintaining 4-year participation in a fine arts and/or world language program
 - Meeting the requirements of a student's IEP or PSP
 - Meeting criteria for MTSS Tier 2 or Tier 3 support in Reading and/or math
 - Meeting core graduation requirements for the student's selected graduation plan
 - Accelerated completion of the CTE pathway and certification prior to 12th grade

The typical progression of CTE elective courses for each student will be as follows:

9th grade	Foundational course approved for multiple pathways
10th grade	Exploratory course in an area of interest within the pathways
11th grade	Enrollment in specific pathway and KDE approved course
12th grade	Completion of pathway selected in 11th grade with KDE approved course

All students enrolled in a CTE pathway shall take the associated industry certifications and/or CTE EOP exams associated with the pathway.

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