

P-TECH 535 Evidence-Based Report 2024

Goal #1: P-TECH 535 students will have higher daily attendance rates than their peers in the comprehensive high schools during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Activity 1: P-TECH 535 staff will identify barriers to attendance as soon as students begin showing patterns of absences (in the first month of school) as attendance will be monitored daily. P-TECH 535 staff will stress the importance of presence in both the postsecondary and workplace settings. When students do not attend, staff will look for barriers to attendance and work to support consistent attendance. P-TECH 535 staff will travel to students' home schools to assist them in getting to class to show the importance of attendance and work with home school staffs to remove barriers to attendance.

Activity 2: P-TECH 535 staff will provide consistent communication with families about student attendance on a daily basis when students are absent; this will include broadening communication strategies to include new language translating software called "Talking Points." Staff will meet with students, families and home high school counseling and administrative staff to collectively address attendance issues early on.

Activity 3: P-TECH 535 staff will provide transportation for students to/from P-TECH when they have other events, such as sports, that may impact their perception about attending for a partial day.

Outcomes: P-TECH 535 will have higher student attendance rates than our comprehensive high schools during the 2023-2024 academic year and will improve upon overall attendance rates among P-TECH 535 students from the 2022-2023 year.

Estimated Timelines: Review/assess quarterly; monitor daily attendance rates.

Outcomes and analysis: Attendance has been a challenge nationally in the past six school years and specifically since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attendance for all students in Rochester Public Schools declined from the 2022-2023 school year. P-TECH students' full day attendance rate was better than their peers at the comprehensive high schools. Full day attendance percentages ranged from 66%-68.4% at the comprehensive high schools and was 73.4% at P-TECH.

The activities selected to address attendance issues for the last school year were effective in supporting students' attendance as it positively impacted attendance for individual students. There are many contributing factors to students' attendance issues we observed; in the upcoming school year we will need to work to better inform families/caregivers about the explicit link between in-person attendance and academic achievement. Many students and families/caregivers believe that accessing assignments online and completing school work from home can be a replacement for attending; this may be a consequence of the habits developed during the distance learning period. For the next school year, attendance will be a continued focus area.

Goal #2: P-TECH 535 students will have higher course passing rates for core academic (required, non-elective) courses than their peers in the comprehensive high schools during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Activity 1: Students will review academic progress weekly with a P-TECH staff member and create goals around academics. Staff will identify all academic supports available to students including providing access to virtual tutoring accessible 24 hours per day/7 days per week. Together, staff and students will

identify and seek out additional academic and/or social/emotional supports or resources they need in order to reach their academic goals.

Activity 2: P-TECH 535 staff will align high school level English and math courses with college entry level (pathway-specific) English and math skills to ensure readiness for college courses. To do so, reading text levels will be scaffolded to build students' skills—these texts must be differentiated in complexity to meet students' current reading levels and in content to prepare them for college and workplace literacy demands. Math students will work in a differentiated content environment, which requires specific use of graphing calculators to align with college-level expectations for use of tools specific to the math field.

Activity 3: P-TECH 535 staff will monitor students' GPAs to ensure they have a 3.0 cumulative GPA by 11th grade (required in order to begin college in 11th grade); this work includes providing additional academic support outside of the school year if students need to re-take courses.

Outcomes: P-TECH 535 will have a higher grade 9 passing rate than our comprehensive high schools.

Estimated Timelines: Annually

Outcomes and analysis: The goal focused on students' passing rates and grades for their core academic courses. Grades are important as students need to have a 3.0 high school GPA to be eligible to being post-secondary enrollment (PSEO) coursework at Rochester Community & Technical College when they are in 11th grade. P-TECH students passed a little over half of their core academic courses at a higher rate than their peers at the comprehensive high schools. Passing rates dropped significantly in the second semester as compared to the first semester throughout the district—P-TECH grades included; however, P-TECH students maintained a higher passing rate in 7 of the 10 core courses in second semester than their peers at the comprehensive high schools.

The focus on grades and academic support, overall, have had a positive impact on students' GPAs in each subsequent cohort. In our first cohort, 61% of students were eligible to begin PSEO courses. In the second cohort, 69% of students are eligible to begin PSEO coursework in fall 2024. In the third cohort (10th grade students in fall 2024), 75% are on track for PSEO eligibility.

For the 2024-2025 school year, we will continue to look for ways to support students' academic achievement. We will partner with the college to support our students as they continue PSEO coursework at the college and continue to work with the comprehensive high schools to support the academic achievement in courses the students take at their home high school.

Goal #3: P-TECH 535 will maintain a 95% annual cohort retention rate during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Activity 1: The P-TECH 535 staff will create a safe and welcoming cohort model that supports students both academically and socially beginning in the summer before their 9th grade year. The Summer Bridge program for incoming 9th graders, held in the August before school starts, builds community and provides students with early learning opportunities within their pathways. The program has increased retention, increased buy-in of the pathway program model and built trust between students and staff.

Activity 2: P-TECH 535 staff will create an immersive and engaging learning environment that emphasizes pathway-specific skills and experiences and results in increased student success and satisfaction. Students will participate in hands-on learning aligned to their pathways. First year nursing

students will become CPR certified, while Information Technology students will learn basic coding skills through a class taught remotely. Second year students will take specific pathway aligned courses (Introduction to Health Science Careers and Mobile Computer Science Principles) at P-TECH in addition to college preparatory English and math. All students will visit a variety of work environments that showcase the variety of jobs within their career pathways.

Activity 3: P-TECH 535 staff will host meetings for incoming students and parents before the start of each school year that outline program expectations and inform more fully about the P-TECH philosophy, learning standards, and timelines.

Outcomes: P-TECH 535 will experience retention rates of over 95%

Estimated Timelines: Annually

Outcomes and analysis: P-TECH has maintained at least at 95% retention rate for cohorts #1-2. At the start of and at mid-year in the 2023-2024 school year, we had some turnover. We have drawn from our waiting list to maintain a near 100% student capacity in each of our pathways. In activity 3, we aimed our focus on incoming student and family meetings, which did not address our current cohort #3 students. We held informational sessions for the incoming cohort #4 and through those efforts, were able to meet with almost every student and their family/caregiver to educate and discuss the P-TECH program model and determine if it is the best fit for the student. We anticipate much less turnover in the upcoming school year.

Goal #4: P-TECH 535 students will attain at least one career-aligned credential related to their pathway during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Activity 1: Year one nursing students will receive their CPR certifications and year two nursing students will attain one additional health-related credential, such as First Aid certification during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Activity 2: By the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, year one Information Technology students will complete basic coding knowledge through a course taught by CodeStream Studios. Year one students will earn at least two industry recognized “badges” through IBM’s SkillsBuild online learning platform. Year two students will earn additional badges related to their Mobile Computer Science Principles course.

Outcomes: P-TECH 535 students will have earned more workplace recognized knowledge and skills, in the form of certifications or badges, in their chosen pathway than non-P-TECH 535 peers.

Estimated Timelines: Annually

Outcomes and analysis: For activity 1, year one nursing students earned their CPR certifications, but were not able to earn a First Aid certification. They were, however, able to earn a mental health-related certification. Information Technology students learned basic coding skills through the CodeStream course and credentials through IBM’s SkillsBuild platform. Year two students learned additional coding languages in their P-TECH IT course. All year one students took a workplace learning/professional experiences course where they were introduced to and advanced their knowledge in such areas as communication, small group team work, conflict resolution, giving/receiving feedback, and time management.

