



New York State P-TECH

New York State P-TECH is a public-private partnership that is recruiting 2000 9th graders each year to an innovative six year program that will prepare them for high-skills jobs of the future in technology, manufacturing, healthcare and engineering. Announced in February 2013 by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, \$77 million in new state funding is now being provided through the New York State Education Department over 9 years for a total of 32 new partnerships, including 16 schools that opened in September 2014, 10 schools that opened in September 2015, and a third cohort of 6 partnerships opened in September 2016.

NYS P-TECH is both an education and economic development initiative. The model, based on the successful partnership among the NYC Department of Education, City University of NY and IBM to design and operate the first P-TECH school in Brooklyn, NY, prepares under-served students to be the highly skilled, critical thinkers and problem-solvers that our 21st century workforce requires. Each of the innovative schools – serving all of the state’s 10 economic development regions -- brings together three essential partners: K-12 education, higher education and industry. The model offers an integrated six-year program, combining high school, college and career training. Focusing on disadvantaged students, each student will have the opportunity to graduate with an Associates level degree at no cost to the student’s family and will be first in line for a job with participating businesses. The school design, drawn from research-based effective practices, offers a rigorous academic curriculum, targeted technical training, comprehensive workplace learning and individualized support services and pathways.

Through local partnerships, business and industry representatives work with education professionals to create a six-year scope & sequence that meets the requirements for entry into specific middle jobs. Skills mapping, a unique approach to curriculum design, assures that the program delivers 21st century talent needs. This career focus is infused into every academic and technical course, providing relevant opportunities for students to hone skills, create projects and address complex problems through multiple pathways. Project-based learning in authentic situations is an essential instructional approach.

The bedrock of NYS P-TECH is the partnership among the three sectors. Delivering on the promise of the NYS P-TECH model requires specific commitments from all participants. School districts and colleges must develop and implement a seamless six- year curriculum of rigorous academic and technical study with individual pathways for students of every academic level. Employers are responsible for identifying mentors, developing substantive workplace and classroom activities and internships along with future job opportunities. This requires innovative staffing, scheduling and instruction and new relationships among faculty, school leaders and employers.

With guidance and policy oversight from the NYS P-TECH Leadership Council and the professional development and support provided through the private sector’s Public Policy Institute of NYS, Inc., these new partnerships are thriving. They offer an innovative approach to school design and community engagement that will prepare students with the secondary AND post-secondary credentials and experience necessary for 21st century careers and offer a qualified talent pipeline for local employers.