Memo Title: Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Education Administrators (PACTA) Membership Meeting Updates from Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE)

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Created by: Bureau of Career and Technical Education

Career and Technical Education Grants Timeline

Supplemental Equipment grants must be submitted by October 4, 2026. Local Education Agencies may leverage spring Occupational Advisory Committee meeting minutes or hold virtual meetings before submission. For additional guidance contact Lynn Aul (lyaul@pa.gov)

Competitive Equipment grants will open for Submission on September 28, 2026 and will close on October 16, 2026.

Task List Revision: Seeking Instructor Input

The Bureau extends sincere thanks to all instructors who participated in the first round of the task list revision surveys. We had 36 institutions that had over 75% participation and 12 LEA partners with 35% or less participation with 4 of those having none of their educators participate in the first round review. Your feedback is essential, greatly appreciated, and connected to the Commonwealth's ability to continue receiving Perkins funding. The second-round survey will be available after October 1 – October 15, 2026 and we encourage instructors who have not yet participated—or who wish to provide additional input—to do so.

Instructors Guide: Seeking Instructor Input

In recent weeks, we've been reminded of how valuable instructor insight is to the Bureau's work. As we continue refining our processes, we are exploring thoughtful and efficient ways to gather input—whether through virtual engagement or existing face-to-face opportunities—while also being mindful of your time and workload.

(from Tracey) We are requesting your support and expertise from your instructional staff. The Bureau of Career and Technical Education in collaboration with Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) is working on adding PA Academic Standards to the existing Programs of Study (POS) for all CIPs which can found on Framework | Department of Education | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Judd Pittman and Tracey Readinger will be reaching out to Directors for recommendations to meet with distinguished subject matter experts/teachers from **each POS** who will serve as a valuable asset to this initiative.

We would like to come together on site as this offers significant value: it allows for richer discussion, more efficient collaboration, and immediate problem solving that is often difficult to replicate in a virtual format. Please look for communication soon.

Artificial Intelligence Framework

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in collaboration with Penn State Center for Science and the Schools will be releasing a landscape report on the Ai in schools. Additionally, PDE in collaboration with PaTTAN

and Intermediate Unit 13 has formed a cross-sector work group to design an Ai Framework / Guidance tool for schools. The goal is to have Ai Framework / Tool read for public feedback this fall or winter.

NOCTI Waiver

As part of the school code changes in this most recent budget flexibility was granted to schools on when to administer the end of program assessment, NOCTI. BCTE is interested in collecting some information for local partners as to the intended use along with learning from partners why they may not leverage the flexibility. Offer input with this NOCTI Waiver form.

Body Mass Index (BMI) Calculations:

In 1512.1 of the school code the BMI updates addressed apply to a career and technical education programs:

(b) The following shall apply to academic instruction on personal health, nutrition and physical fitness:

(1) The calculation of body mass index shall be prohibited.

(2) Any instruction that requires the collection of a student's height and weight measurement information shall be conducted in a manner that protects student confidentiality.

It is recommended that career and technical education programs follow this guidance and generate unique non-identifiable ways for learners to complete the task grid elements associated with this calculation or gathering of data. Please reach out to the ra-edcareerteched@pa.gov with questions or innovations.

PDE SAS Conference

December 6 – December 9, 2026
Multiple Choice Event – Sunday, December 6, 1:00-4:00pm
Registration opened Wednesday, September 16
This year they are offering a team of 3 discounts.

Certification Reminder

All new CTE teachers hired on a Type 01 emergency permit must be enrolled in a state approved Career and Technical teacher certification program as soon as possible—ideally within their first year of teaching. Many teachers have not been enrolled promptly, and PDE stresses that enrollment is essential for reissuance of the permit and for progressing toward full certification.

Program Standards and Quality Assurances (PSQA)

The IMS (Integrated Monitoring System) has been opened for APTE (Approved Program Technical Evaluations) for only the schools being monitored during the 2026-27 school year. This year's monitoring schools have received information about gaining access to the system and the RA for access concerns is RA-EDIMS@pa.gov.

Technical Assistance Program

The Bureau is happy with the start of the 2026-27 TAP year and thanks everyone in advance for working with the Education Resource Center on the Technical Assistance Program.

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange

Non Decisional | PACTA Updates

The application for the 2027-28 Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX Vocational program) is now open and can be found on the Nacel Open Door website: NacelOpenDoor.org/CBYX.

Please refer to the Application Instructions on that page for eligibility requirements, a list of required application materials, and links to the online application and recommendation forms.

Complete application materials are due December 1, 2026.

If you have questions or concerns, please email (cbyx27-28@nacelopendoor.org).

Thank you again for your interest in the CBYX Vocational program!

Please know that Nacel Open Door also has opportunities all across the United States for hosting exchange students or helping recruit families to host exchange students. If you would like more information about hosting, being a local representative, or in having a CBYX presentation at your school or club, please feel free to reach out directly to CBYX Vocational Program Director, Carrie Hess, at chess@nacelopendoor.org or via phone at 651-288-4613.