

Accreditation Review – Schuylkill Technology Centers

ONE YEAR REPORT NARRATIVE

The Pennsylvania Bureau of Career and Technical Education conducted a 5-year review of the Schuylkill Technology Centers (STC) in regard to their re-accreditation by the Pennsylvania State Board of Career and Technical Education on July 16-18, 2018. This review found two non-compliance issues with the institution in relation to the PPPCTE Accreditation Guidelines.

At the January 2019 State Board for Career and Technical Education meeting, the Board voted to grant Schuylkill Technology Centers Probationary Accreditation with Stipulations for one year. As per the conditions set forth by the Board, a mid-year review was conducted by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education (BCTE). This involved monthly contact with STC and a formal visit on July 17, 2019. BCTE stayed in contact with STC and conducted a one-year review on November 26, 2019.

Based on the site visits and evidence provided by STC, BCTE is recommending full Accreditation until January 2024.

The following report states the question, original on-site evaluation comments and evidence that was provided by STC to PDE.

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5. Describe how the administration team discusses and reviews goals of adult education.

On-Site Evaluator Comments: Artifacts provided demonstrate that Adult Education goals are discussed routinely during Occupational Advisory Committee and periodic faculty/staff meetings. Heavy Equipment/Commercial Driver License appear to support current goals. Practical Nursing tends to identify additional goals or revisions to the current goals. Lacking is discussion of placement rate, certification pass rates, retention of students. Everything presented is teacher discussion. Evidence supporting the discussion of adult education goals by the administrative team is missing.

Evidence Provided by STC to PDE:

STC has moved its bimonthly meeting to once a month. A Strategic Plan was created for Adult Education with goals in Student Learning, Student Retention/Enrollment Management, Student Remediation and Community Outreach. Evidence provided shows that because of this plan, they have made changes to their programs and resources to better improve their Adult Education Programming. STC had moved the Commercial Driver License and Heavy Equipment program to the North Campus which gives them better oversight. They have secured four donated tractors to help with the expansion of the Commercial Driver License program and are working with the Intermediate Unit on curriculum writing for the Practical Nursing program. STC is in the talks with local hospitals to do a transition from Practical Nurse to Registered Nurse. STC is also looking into starting a Commercial Driver License program in the evening and an evening Welding program.

6. Describe how the administration team discusses and reviews performance of adult Education.

On-Site Evaluator Comments: Various documents were provided. Not clear how faculty evaluations are used to inform program effectiveness. The Occupational Advisory Committee provides input into the program but not evident that action is taken on the minutes. The 2013-2018 strategic plan was provided but no evidence of implementation or discussion of an 2018-2022 plan was being developed. The Practical Nursing evaluation plan is impressive. It covers all aspects of the program. It looks at faculty, scheduling, support services, student success, organization. Evidence of implementation was not provided. The combo program consisting of Heavy Equipment and Commercial Drivers License does not have an evaluation plan. Student surveys and employer surveys are found in the annual report binders. Each was positive, so placement rate and test pass rate are high.

Evidence Provided by STC to PDE:

During its monthly meetings, STC reviews the enrollment, retention, grades and attendance of the students in each program. Currently there are issues with the retention and grades in the Practical Nursing program. STC believes this might be due to economic and learning based issues. They are working with the Intermediate Unit on videos and interactive learning activities, study guides and strengthening their remediation plans for students. STC has hired a secretary for the Practical Nursing program which has allowed the Practical Nursing Coordinator to dedicate more time for the students and less on administrative tasks. They have hired a new Heavy Equipment Operations instructor with current industry experience and some part time instructors for the Commercial Driver License and Practical Nursing programs. Also during the monthly meetings, the Strategic Plan is reviewed and to ensure that steps have been taken for completion and to update as necessary.