

**Erie County Technical School
Director's Report
August 2007**

Strategic Planning. We publicized the availability of our strategic plan for public review on August 6. We also placed the plan on our web site. Administrative staff members have been working with PDE's e-strategic planning program to enter our plan and respond to required prompts. As some of you may know from your district's experiences, the on-line PDE process is very complicated. We seem to be working through it fairly well.

Administrative Retreat. The administrative team met on July 30, 31 and August 1 to plan for the 2007-2008 school year. The team reviewed performance data, establish priorities and wrote three administrative priorities. The plans address parent communication, safety and procedural literacy (reading). The action plans for the administrative priorities are available in the supplemental information section of the agenda.

Academic Achievement. The new Perkins Act holds career and technical schools accountable to NCLB standards for mathematics and reading. With nearly 50% of our students less than proficient in mathematics and 30% less than proficient in reading, the technical school, in cooperation with our participating districts, is tackling the issue through two initiatives.

First, we have acquired a site license to Study Island, a web-based instructional tool. Eight of our districts already use Study Island for instructional and remedial purposes. ECTS will employ a similar strategy. Tenth grade students identified as being below proficiency in mathematics or reading will be schedule for 'extended learning opportunities.' Students will report to the networking laboratory for a couple of periods each week to improve their academic proficiency.

The second strategy is a PSSA math preparation class for 11th graders whom we identified as below proficiency. These students will attend a class taught by our mathematics resource person, Stephanie Hamilton. We have five periods a week scheduled in both the first and second semester to provide this program.

Mandate Waiver—Transition Center. We received notification from PDE that our request for a mandate waiver to have students construct the proposed transition center has been denied. We are attempting to communicate with PDE to clarify their response.

Performance Check-ups. The director is meeting with each administrator to review summer performance plans and establish plans for the fall quarter. Everyone has clear objectives they want to accomplish between September and November.

Director's Travel and Meetings. The director's recent and scheduled meetings include:

- *Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators*; July 24 to 29, State College; the annual leadership development conference for Pennsylvania CTE administrators

- *Pennsylvania Automotive Association, AYES Dealers' Advisory Council Meeting*; August 14, Harrisburg; the director serves as the chair of PAA's AYES Education Advisory Council and is representing that council at the dealers' council meeting
- *Erie Community Foundation*; August 17, Erie; invited to meet with Sidney Hacker to discuss the community college initiative
- *Strategy Solutions, Inc.*, August 17, Erie; to meet with Debra Thompson to discuss progress of community college initiative; with Sandra Myers and Jim Bucksbee
- *County-level Workforce Development Meeting*, August 20; a monthly meeting of government agencies and public service providers to address workforce development issues
- *PDE's Perkins IV Five Year State Plan*; August 22, Harrisburg via teleconference; to assist the Bureau of Career and Technical Education with the development of the five-year plan