



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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July 31, 2008

Mr. Aldo Jackson
Erie County Technical School
8500 Oliver Road
Erie, PA 16509-4699

Dear Mr. Jackson:

Your career and technical center has been selected to participate in the Pennsylvania Department of Education/Bureau of Career and Technical Education's technical assistance plan. Pennsylvania has worked with national organizations to develop evidence-based professional development and technical assistance.

PDE, in conjunction with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Education Trust and the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA), have developed professional development and technical assistance opportunities. The opportunities are specifically designed to assist Pennsylvania's CTCs with raising student performance on the PSSA and technical end of program assessments.

We are confident that the technical assistance plan will support local efforts and enhance your opportunity to increase student achievement. The plan includes opportunities for your school districts and covers literacy and numeracy strategies that can be implemented in the content area. Participation in the technical assistance should include administration, teachers and guidance counselors from the CTC and the participating school district.

We commend you for your current efforts and for being selected to participate in this effort. We look forward to working with you during 2008-2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gerald L. Zahorchak".

Gerald L. Zahorchak, D.Ed.
Secretary of Education



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August 8, 2008

Mr. Larry Kessler
Fairview School District
7460 McCray Road
Fairview, PA 16415-2401

Dear Mr. Kessler:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) in Pennsylvania faces a dual challenge. CTE programs must prepare students for careers in the 21st century and the new knowledge economy. Simultaneously, CTE must meet or exceed academic expectations and standards required of all students. To address the challenges, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) has embarked on systematic changes. These significant changes are leading to far-reaching and significant structural reforms that are sustainable over the long term. Professional development is key to ensuring systematic changes at the local level.

PDE has worked with several national and state organizations to develop professional development opportunities designed for career and technical centers (CTCs). These opportunities, developed collaboratively by PDE, the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), the Education Trust and the Pennsylvania Association of Career and Technical Administrators (PACTA) focus on rating student performance on PSSA and technical end-of-program assessments.

Because of each school district's role in and responsibility to the total success of students attending CTE programs, opportunities are also being developed for school districts. Specifically, sessions will be provided to district instructional staff and focus on infusing reading strategies in the classroom. PDE will schedule three regional sessions during June 2009 for CTC and school district instructional staff.

A tentative calendar of activities has been attached for your review. If you need further information, please contact Lee Burket at lburket@state.pa.us or (717) 787-5530.

Sincerely,

Diane Castelbuono
Deputy Secretary

cc: Erie County Technical School ✓