

**Erie County Technical School
Focus Group--All Districts Summary
2010-2011**

Districts Responding: Fairview, Ft. LeBoeuf, General McLane, Girard, Harbor Creek,
Iroquois, Millcreek, North East, Northwestern, Union City, Wattsburg

Question #2: When you visited ECTS, what did you think was really interesting about Tech?

Hands-on, Tools

I like the hands on part, bringing in your own vehicle to work on
Hands On
Got to try things
Use tools
Like cosmetology, got to paint nails, fun activity
Eat the Food
Stuff they did want to do

Building Clean, Big

Clean
Color coded walls
Big, got lost
Big

Different Atmosphere, People, Being at Different School

Students liked that they would spend a half day at another school
Different atmosphere
Different atmosphere, new
Relaxed setting
Work place, not classroom
Lots of kids from different schools
Students liked that they could meet different people
Stuff really nice
Kid place and how set up-kids there
Medical thing like college
Welding-a lot of equipment
Fake body with seizures & talked
Not much book work
Students liked that there was basically one class for their day
Earn college credits
Freedom
Independence
Variety of classes/programs (8)

Question #2: When you visited ECTS--continued

Students & Teachers

Everyone laid back
Art cool, laid back
They knew what they were talking about
Cool to see everyone was really involved
Art people made to feel comfortable, not on edge
Teachers were very welcoming
Students felt that the staff was friendly

Other

Bus ride, field trip
Interesting but not enough to go, got attention with what they did and how they did it
I had a blank card so was in the wrong area
Free stuff
If you went there, you would get a good education
Friends say good, liked digital art
Learn a lot in medical field, cool lab
Good school if you are pursuing one of the careers being offered
Number of credits
Being able to have a job as a senior

Negative Comments about Interesting

Nothing—5
Students did not like having to ride the bus
On the visit, some visiting students felt uncomfortable or unwelcome by ECTS Students

Question #3: What one thing about the school made you say 'yes/maybe' you would apply?

The Teachers, Students

Friendly people
Friendly
People in classroom—Art & Design
Cool teachers
Teachers
Machinist teacher was cool
Faculty seemed nice, laid back
Faculty impressed him
Seemed well informed

Question #3: What one thing--continued

Friendly faculty

Liked the faculty

Faculty seemed nice

Nice faculty, enthusiastic

Students were nice

Students from other schools

Very interesting programs (students I met with showed a lot of interest in the programs they visited)

Atmosphere, Classes, Homework

Different from SHS. Other schools that attend seem anti social, not as friendly.

Less classes you have to take

Less homework

No gym or health, go more advanced, college credits

Really laid back and learning

Seemed exciting

Something different from high school

Everyone looked like they were having fun

Career, Useful Education

Learn something new, useful in life

Useful in life--Calculus or changing a tire... duh

Learn something you can use when you get older

Head start on career

Getting ready for my future

Promise of a job after completion

Gave me a glimpse of a career I have thought about

I want to be a nurse

Better education

I really wanted to go in the nursing career before applying to college

It's All About the Program

Art program seemed advanced, would like to make an art career

Doing Art for half the day

Auto tech presentation

Auto Tech program

Program and equipment for auto mechanics was very nice

Program and equipment for auto mechanics was very nice

I like cars

Equipment looked good—auto body

Graphic arts program—heading toward that as a career

Question #3: What one thing--continued

Interest in medical field
I want to go into the medical field
Interested in Carpentry program
Liked cosmetology
Learn something about manufacturing
I have always wanted to be an electrical engineer
I felt like it would help me get a career in the medical field
I enjoy food
Interested in teaching
I'm good with kids
Interesting programs (4)
Liked the program
Programs
Like putting all electives into one area of interest
Liked the idea of concentrated electives
Like the idea of focusing on one area of interest
Liked half day and could do what interests them
Opportunities and technology seem up-to-date
It sounded fun and I enjoy making food
We got to play with Photoshop, made food
I'm a great wiz with technology

Options, Opportunities & Experience

Opportunities and technology seem up-to-date
More opportunities
Sister went to a technical school and I liked the opportunities you can have
Have more than one option
Seemed they had a lot to offer
What they had to offer (5)
More options
Variety of knowledge
I thought it would be a good experience and it could be fun
I wanted to have more practice for when I go to college
I thought it would be a good learning experience and there are a lot of jobs for it
Help you when older trying to look for jobs

Hands-On, Learning Style

Really hands on and could do what want freely and learn while doing
Hands on-All agreed
It was really cool to see what people were doing
Liked the projects working on in Computer Programming

Question #3: What one thing--continued

Hands-on training
Lots of hands-on to do
Like the hands-on aspect of the school
Teaching style and computers
I liked the fact that you made posters and used the computers
I always felt creative and this could help me with that

Building

Bright, clean classrooms
Nice building/school
The school was clean and nice looking
It is a nice school

Other

When SHS has a day off, tech goes and when tech is off, SHS has class. Not real fair.
Liked the courses offered however being in 9th grade and having to choose your future is difficult.
Looked into it further after the field trip
Cool school but not a long time career choice
Need longer time
Found things out later
Thought friends wouldn't be there
Give you certificate
I don't know--3
Good food in cafeteria
Organized
Professional environment in Culinary
Gifts
Looked like fun
Because I wanted to
I thought it would be good
Because it seemed cool
Could help me with my career
I thought I was interested in these courses
It seemed like a good school and I liked it a lot

Negative Comments

Many students expressed that they really were not interested in going to ECTS, but took applications or expressed interest because they felt bad for the school/people
They felt like they were pressured and couldn't say no
Had no interest

Question #5: How do your parents feel about applying to the technical school?

Positive

Both parents encouraged her to apply
Both parents went, they were ok
Cared that you apply to something you liked
Cool with it (2)
Dad laid back and ok with it
Dad went and fine with it
Did apply and got accepted
Didn't say much, liked the idea
Encouraging if that's what he wanted
Fine
Happy, free
Mom is fine (2)
Mom wanted me to go because my uncle had a good experience with it
Mom would like it
Mother had attended and was encouraging
Ok
Parents for it but wants to stay at Seneca with friends
Parents said good idea
Parents thought be a good idea to get background before college
Parents were OK
Parents were supportive (2)
Positive
Said it sounded like a good idea
Said it was nice place to go
Sister goes
They like it (2)
They told me that if I was interested to apply- they would support me
Thought I would be good to get a head start on career
Thought it was a good idea
Thought it would be a good learning opportunity
Want me to go
Want to go but too much going on, learn from Dad
Want to go but too much going on, want to take French
Wanted him to get started on career after high school

Did Not Care

Didn't care (9)
Didn't care one way or the other
Don't care

Question #5: How do your parents feel--continued

Mom didn't care either way
Parents didn't care either way
Parents didn't push for it
They were OK with it either way
Wouldn't care (2)

Left Decision to Student

It is totally my decision
It was up to me to decide
Left decision up to him
Neutral (4)
Said it was his choice
Say it is my choice
Some left it up to the student, and they decided not to apply

Negative

Dad didn't really like it
Dad doesn't want him to attend
Dad said no—wants him to attend college
Didn't want me to apply (5)
Just didn't like it
May be too technical
Mom doesn't like technical schools-she had a bad experience
Mom not happy with it, wants student to take AP & CP courses at Seneca
Mom not supportive
Mom said it was a good idea, Dad thought bad idea didn't think art career would happen
Mom said it would be good idea to head into it, but not yet this year—because of missing a language
Mom wants him to take language
Mom worried-just bought flute and can't attend band if in ECTS
Not happy
Parent's felt like going to ECTS would decrease their chance of going to college
Parents believe you can't go to college
Parents didn't want him to attend—want to go to college
Parents want me to go into Pre-Med
Some parents felt that ECTS would be a distraction
Substitute for college even though I told them you could and otherwise
They didn't want me to apply because of college and honors classes/rank
They didn't want me to apply- but did not give me a reason
They felt like Fort LeBoeuf HS was more beneficial to their children
Wanted cosmo but couldn't make a living with Art
Wouldn't need for the plan planning on taking

Question #5: How do your parents feel--continued

Parents Unaware, Uniformed

I didn't tell them I was interested
I don't know; didn't discuss with them—5
Depends on career choice

Question #6: What kept you from turning in your application?

Foreign Language

General consensus: Languages are a big portion why wanting to stay at Seneca
Taking a language is important to her
Want Spanish next year
Wanted to keep language in her schedule
Wanted to take a language
Wants to take language and Performing Arts
Wanted three years of Spanish

Other Classes at Home School

Can't take electives
Couldn't be involved in electives here
Decided MIHS electives would be interesting
Electives here at HIS
Found electives here he wants to take
Like electives here
Like electives here
Losing all the electives
Want to take different elective at McD
Want to take McD electives
Honors classes
I just decided to take honors classes and just changed my mind
I wanted to enroll in college classes
Can take the same classes at school district
Students felt that they could get more benefit from courses at FLB when considering future employment
Wanted to take courses McD offers
I didn't like the idea of leaving high school, continue to take all of my normal high school classes
And I didn't want to give up a history class
Applied for AFJROTC instead
Didn't want to leave MIHS
Didn't want to miss classes if going to change mind
Stay in MIHS

Question #6: What kept you from turning in--continued

Want to remain at GHS all day (6)
Wanted to stay at MIHS
Would rather stay in school
Felt leaving MIHS wouldn't be good
I just kind of changed my mind. I wanted to focus on just regular high school.
I'd rather stay at home school than go to tech

Parents' Influence

Parents
Parents did not encourage
Parents ok, seems like a hobby type thing
Parents wouldn't let him apply
Dad said no
Dad talked out of Cosmo
Dad went to ECTS and didn't like
Mom said no
My parents didn't want me to go (2)
Upward Bound said it would be a waste of time

No Time, Lazy, Forgot, Application Process

Didn't feel like completing application
Didn't feel like completing it
Didn't feel like doing the application
Didn't feel like following through on process
Didn't want to go through the process
Didn't find time to complete application, kept pushing it off
Didn't have time to turn in
Didn't know, lost track of time
Time Frame- when applications were due by
Forgot (2)
Forgot then thought it was too late
Forgot about it
Lazy, forgot
Lazy
Just lazy
Late (2)
I don't know
Changed my mind

Question #6: What kept you from turning in--continued

No Intention of Applying

Didn't want to go (4)

Just didn't

Just didn't want to go

I'm not sure really, I just didn't

I didn't want to

I didn't want to go

No reason, didn't want to go

Didn't have the interest to go

Not interested (8)

Students had no intention of applying

Wanted to experience MIHS all day

I didn't know if I wanted to go to Tech just yet

Other Career Path

Career interest

Decided didn't want to follow through with cosmetology

Didn't like chancing not getting into cosmetology if didn't really want to go

Didn't want to go into education

Don't have anything for photography

Don't need

Not sure about committing

Not sure what to do. Could go on to another tech school after ECTS. Wants educational career.

They need to add more programs

They thought they had a better chance of going to college through home school rather than ECTS

Want to have a different profession (2)

Wasn't one thing, had set mind on yet so wanted to think about it more. Have a couple careers

Wasn't sure if it would really help to get where wanted to go

I decided cosmetology wasn't for me and I wasn't entirely sure I wanted to go into child care

I wanted to make sure I had all of my requirements for college like w years of a Spanish class

I felt like graphic design was not my first choice for my future career

I want to pursue a more academic career

Leaving Friends at Home School

Didn't know anyone else going

Didn't turn in because my friends at IHS are not going

Didn't want to leave friends (3)

Feel disconnected from our school

I wanted to be here at IHS with my friends

Wouldn't get to see friends

Question #6: What kept you from turning in--continued

Extracurricular

Marching Band (need to be in class to participate) (3)

I am in chorus which is in the morning every other day

Sports (3)

With sports would want to be at

Thought it would be hard to balance with sports

Tech effects sports after school or during the day, you miss stuff in school

After school activities

Some students felt that it would negatively impact any after school activities

Stuff here want to do instead

Too many after school activities here

Moving

Moving (3)

Other

Did not have the best grades

Too busy with trying to keep grades up

Credits are all messed up

Central Tech pre-engineering appealed to me

ECTS was too big of a commitment

Forgot application in Pittsburgh

If it were after school I would

They didn't want to make such a big decision so early on

They felt a lot of pressure to apply

They felt like if they joined a program and didn't like, then they will have wasted that time that they could have spent at the home school

Thought it would be difficult to get there on MIHS day off

Thought you couldn't go to a college

Waiting for the 2-year program

Considering more in junior year

Didn't want to make the trip everyday

Otherwise Positive

All positive

At the time I wanted to

People say it's really awesome

No reason. I haven't talked to dad but would like to

I did

Question #7: Which statement 'strikes a good note' in you? (not all schools supplied)

1	3	7	13
1	4	7	13
1	4	7	14
1	4	7	15
2	4	8	15
2	4	8	16
2	4	8	16
2	4	8	17
3	4	8	17
3	5	8	17
3	5	9	17
3	5	9	17
3	5	9	18
3	5	9	18
3	5	9	18
3	5	11	18
3	6	12	18
3	6	12	
3	7	13	
3	7	13	

Question #8: Does this information make you think differently about your plan to apply to ECTS? (not all schools supplied)

No, Not Really

CP & AP classes, no change in thoughts
Did not change their opinion or mind about ECTS
Don't want to ride the bus
General consensus: Not really
No (11)
Not really (2)
Not really, not set on what want to do
Stay in 1 building, not have day divided

Maybe

Kinda
Makes it look better and sound more appealing
Need to talk to dad
Tech is for someone who knows what they want to do

Question #8: Does this information make you think differently—continued

Yes

Already knew a lot of it

Motivates me

Would apply (2)

Yes (2)

Other

Some felt that the percentage of people who go on to college was low
9 – 18 were a little “cheesy”

Question #9: What could ECTS do so you would turn in your application?

Career Path, Programs

Different programs; everything is workforce geared; wants to be a chemical engineer; No

Interested in flying, need Aviation program

Made a mixed class-variety cooking & parenting

More classes

Multiple programs

Offer different programs

Offer more in depth programs that are extensions of Fort LeBoeuf HS

Scientific classes, engineering

Set up in engineering as a team like CCTS

Wants to be a teacher so no courses offered

Get a psychology course

What's at the End?

Got to pay off in the end

How will it help? Show previous students job placements, what is their income, what is required?

List of college after ECTS to further education

What happens after 3 years?

If Friends Went

Enjoy being with classmates

I think I would have gone if more people I knew would have gone

More friends

Question #9: What could ECTS do so you--continued

Nothing More Could Do

Nothing – 32

No—3

None

None, it seems well done

Nothing, I thought it was good

Not much

Not much they can do

Not really

Not sure (2)

I'm not sure if there is anything tech can do to change my mind

Don't know

Hard to make up mind

All liked

People were very friendly

They pretty much did it all

More Time to get Familiar with ECTS

Encourage shadowing

Individual shadowing

Let you do labs with them

I would like to see more in depth what the program is like (ex: paperwork, binders, tests, etc.)

Extend the field trip

Longer trip

Spend more time for those who are interested

Felt rushed

Felt very rushed-only a little time to look around

Field trip was rushed

Going more than one time to see what is offered

Take a second field trip

Better to see more than three departments

Good to actually see the class

Visit late or earlier in the year....not during sports

Visit more and get more info

Bring a current student to the initial presentation

Add other labs related to veterinary science, forensic science, music and theater

Question #9: What could ECTS do so you--continued

Low Pressure Persuasion

Felt pressured to decide then
Students in lab were pushy...you have to choose this lab, etc.

Help with Application

Would prefer applications handed out at school district
Have students complete the application with an adult parental contact
Help complete the application
Help fill out application
Help student complete application
Help student complete form
More time to get application in

More Direct Contact with Student, Parents

Current students/friend encourage
Encourage them through more contact
Inform parents more
Reminder (5)
Talk to parents
Talk with students individually

Other

Advertise more
Bribe
Don't sugar coat it...the whole time I was wondering what was behind the sugar coating
The presentation in the lab could have been better. I felt like I was being talked down to
The presenters should have been more enthusiastic in the labs I visited
Encourage vs. discourage students to apply for a lab by telling them they should always apply because everyone has a chance of getting in
Less kids go
More food would be helpful :o)
Only limited space
Shorter classes to allow students a chance at taking elective classes
Shorter time
Show us the work...not just the fun aspects
Sport team
What is behind the fun?

Question #9: What could ECTS do so you--continued

Tech could let me be able to still take my language class and attend tech at the same time
For first year tech students let them go to a few classes instead of making them pick right away
Free stuff, make so you have two labs
College tuition
Offer some college credits
Free stuff
Come back earlier to school (back home at 2:51)
Come back to home school at 2:51 like when everyone else does
Don't think home school grades should be part of determining whether or not I can get into a lab at ECTS
Start the process earlier – begin to explain tech in Jr. High so we can try to get in two years of a language previous to 10th grade

Question #10: What could School District do so you would turn in your application?

More Time to get Familiar with ECTS

Explore more days out there
Extended time, more in depth
Go again, see more labs, go as a student to the labs
Have a day to demonstrate the classes taught here.
More field trips
Make sure there is plenty of time at the end to choose the labs I want to visit

Former, Current Student Connection

Students attending and graduated come in to speak
More speakers

Help with Application

Explain things better
Help complete the application
Help fill out application
Help students complete application (2)
Help students with application
Keep after him to complete application steps
Meet with students individually
Meet with students one-on-one
Meet with them individually
Need to emphasize it not a commitment by turning in an application

Question #10: What could School District do—continued

More Direct Contact with Student, Parents

Communicate more with parents

Have parents involved in completing application with counselor—given parents a different perspective

Inform our students better

Meet with parents

More reminders

Nothing More Could Do

No

Nothing—5

Really don't think so. We went on field trip and can go there now. I don't think its Seneca's place. It should be Tech

Other

Advertise it more

Allow me to keep my band classes

Change things so language can be included

Different fields

Don't want to go in afternoon because of sports

Fort LeBoeuf HS has everything that ECTS has to offer

Highlight perks

It's either for you or not for you

Stats, grad rate, how many go on to college

Teachers at Fort LeBoeuf HS are very willing to work with students

Unless they make Seneca bad

Maybe if our school would cut credits in half for people going to tech