

**Joint Operating Committee
March 2011 Meeting
School District Report**



1. ECTS Achieves AYP for 2009-2010

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education recently recognized ECTS for achieving Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 2009-2010 in mathematics and reading. Through the Safe Harbor provision, the PSSA scores for the Class of 2011 showed an improvement of more than 10% from the year prior. ECTS is one of eight of Pennsylvania's 71 part-time career and technical schools to achieve AYP. This is the first year ECTS reached AYP.

The concerted effort of faculty and support staff over the past two years contributed to the achievement. Using a Response to Instruction and Intervention model (RtII), the technical school relied on various activities to promote literacy and numeracy throughout the campus and instructional day. The RtII model was supported with professional development on a group and one-on-one basis by Dr. Dan Perna of James Daniels Associates and Todd Luke of Max Teaching.

For mathematics, the RtII activities included a weekly math league for every student, integrated math in several technical programs; math coaches who assist instructors teach math concepts in the programs; a PSSA math preparation course for selected students; and the use of Study Island as a remediation program for students with the highest need. For reading, the activities included a weekly sustained silent reading period; a weekly 'Reader Response' period where reading and writing are emphasized; frequent use of vocabulary, comprehension and retention strategies by all teachers; the use of quarterly reading action plans developed by each instructor; a reading coach that assists instructors make the best use of reading strategies to improve vocabulary, comprehension and retention; and the use of Study Island as a remediation program for the students with the highest need. The school even held a pep rally to encourage students to do well on the PSSA exams.

Compared to other career and technical schools across the state, ECTS did very well. The table below compares ECTS scores to state averages:

<u>Mathematics</u>	<u>Percent Proficient or Advanced</u>
Erie County Technical School	49.1
Part-Time Career & Technical Schools	32.4
Comprehensive Career & Technical Schools	34.9
All Career & Technical Schools	35.8
 <u>Reading</u>	 <u>Percent Proficient or Advanced</u>
Erie County Technical School	51.6
Part-Time Career & Technical Schools	39.8
Comprehensive Career & Technical Schools	43.6
All Career & Technical Schools	43.3

2. ECTS Surpasses State and Federal Technical Achievement Goals

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Career and Technical Education recently recognized ECTS for surpassing state and federal goals for technical achievement. In 2009-2010, 213 ECTS students took a nationally recognized technical skill exam and 77.9% of them achieved a level of advanced or competent. This score showed a 49% increase from two years prior and surpassed the federal Perkins performance level of 60.5%. The Department of Education uses the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute's (NOCTI) written and practical exams to measure the technical skill of each student that completes a technical education program.

Staff members at the school have placed extra emphasis on the technical skill exam. For example, faculty members review their program's scores from the prior year and develop action plans to improve scores. They also use NOCTI study guides, practice exams, and questions of the day with students to reinforce exam content. The school also recognizes programs with a gold or silver certificate for high levels of achievement.