



Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Frequently Asked Questions

General Information about P-TECH

1. What are the entrance requirements for the P-TECH program?

P-TECH programs are open to all students, with no grade or testing requirements. Regardless of students' prior academic performance, the curriculum sequencing and instructional supports ensure that all students develop the skills and knowledge they need to graduate within six years. The P-TECH program's administration is required to reserve at least 50% of the available space for students who meet the free and reduced-price meal income criteria. There are no other specific entrance requirements for the P-TECH program.

2. Are there consequences if a student decides to drop out of the P-TECH program?

Provided that the student is on track to earn their high school diploma, there are no consequences for the student if he or she chooses to drop out of the P-TECH program. However, the student will no longer be eligible for the free college tuition.

3. Can students begin the P-TECH program after grade 9, or must they all start when in grade 9?

The intent is for P-TECH students to start together as a grade 9 cohort. The industry focus and identified associate degree is introduced to students in that first year.

4. What if a student cannot complete the associate degree within six years?

P-TECH students are afforded up to six years to earn the associate degree. The P-TECH program model requires partners to provide the supports students need to complete the program in the time allowed. Funding to support these efforts is only available for six years; however, students may finish in less time if they complete the requirements.

5. For how many years is the six-week paid internship required and in what years?

The P-TECH program requires that, at a minimum, all students have at least one, six-week paid internship while participating in the P-TECH program. The timing of the internship is not specified and will most likely be determined by student and employer readiness.

6. Where are classes held for P-TECH students?

P-TECH classes are held at Joppatowne High School. This includes college courses offered by Harford Community College (HCC).

Awarding of the High School Diploma to P-TECH Students

7. *When should P-TECH students be awarded the high school diploma?*

It is recommended that P-TECH students meet all Maryland high school graduation requirements by the 4th year of the program. However, P-TECH students are not considered to have completed the P-TECH program until they have earned the associate degree. In some cases, it may take students up to six years to complete the associate degree requirements. For students who will need additional time to earn the associate degree, the high school diploma should be kept “on file” with the school system until the associate degree has been earned. When students meet the P-TECH program requirements (earned the associate degree and the high school diploma), then they should be awarded both.

8. *Should school systems hold back a course required for graduation from P-TECH students who have not yet earned the associate degree by the 4th year of high school?*

Ideally, P-TECH students should meet all Maryland high school graduation requirements by the 4th year of the program; thus, it is not recommended that required high school courses be held back. (See question #9). The high school diploma should be kept “on file” with the school system until the associate degree has been earned.

9. *What graduation year should be recorded on the P-TECH student’s transcript?*

The year the student completes their high school graduation requirements should appear on the official transcript.

10. *Can P-TECH students who have completed all high school graduation requirements but who have not yet completed all the P-TECH program requirements (earned the associate degree) participate in graduation ceremonies (“walk the stage”) with their peers?*

Yes, according to COMAR 13A.03.02.09 (5), if a student participates in a graduation ceremony prior to the completion of the student’s education program (for P-TECH students this means the earning of the associate degree) at the ceremony, the school system shall issue to the student a Certificate of Achievement or other similarly titled certificate in place of a diploma.

11. What if a P-TECH student who is in year five or six of the program needs proof that they have met high school graduation requirements?

In a case such as this, it is recommended that a letter from the school principal or the school system's superintendent be generated. The letter should explain that the student is enrolled in an early college program and has met all high school graduation requirements but will not receive an actual diploma or official high school transcript until the student has met all the program requirements which include earning an associate degree.

12. Which partners make up the P-TECH program at Joppatowne High School?

Harford Community College (HCC) serves as our College Partner. They are responsible for providing college courses and aligning the curriculum and pathways that students will follow. They work in connection with Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Communications Electronics Command Division to create a curriculum that will prepare them for job readiness.

Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Communications Electronics Command division (CECOM) is our Industry Partner. Their role is to provide mentors throughout the P-TECH journey and job readiness internships that will ensure students are ready to enter the workforce upon completion of the P-TECH program. Students will participate in field trips and internships to APG to participate in hands on learning and training.

13. How many students are selected each year for the P-TECH program.

30 students are selected through a lottery process each year. Disclaimer: The P-TECH program allots 15 slots for students who are economically disadvantaged.

P-TECH Accountability

14. What measures will P-TECH programs be required to report for the purposes of academic attainment?

School systems must report Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) scores for English 10 and Algebra I as well as scores on the Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA).

15. How are P-TECH students in years five and six of the program eligible for the public school full-time equivalent student enrollment (FTES) funding in the K-12

State Aid Formulas? How will P-TECH students be accounted for in school system and state enrollment files?

As per the Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) Act of 2017, in year five of the program, a school system can claim 50% of the FTES for the P-TECH student. In year six, a school system can claim 25% of the FTES for the P-TECH student. MSDE developed special funding reporting codes for P-TECH students that will allow for these students to remain in the enrollment count for the purpose of calculating the FTES for the 5th and 6th year. MSDE developed exit reporting codes for P-TECH students which will include the following:

- High School Completed and P-TECH Continuing: did not yet earn the associate degree, did meet high school graduation requirements. *(These students are continuing on to earn the associate degree)*.
 - These students will be awarded the actual high school diploma document, but it will be held “on file” for them until they earn the associate degree.
 - They will still be counted in the FTES.
- P-TECH Completed and Exited: earned the associate degree and met high school graduation requirements. *(These students met all P-TECH program requirements)*.
 - These students will receive their high diploma and associate degree.
 - They will no longer be counted in the FTES.
- High School Completed and Exited: did not earn the associate degree but did meet high school graduation requirements *(These students are choosing not to continue on to earn the associate degree)*.
 - These students will receive their high school diploma.
 - They will be no longer be counted in the FTES.
- P-TECH not Complete and Exited: did not earn the associate degree, did not meet high school graduation requirements
 - These students will not be awarded a high school diploma document or an associate degree.
 - They will be no longer counted in the FTES.

16. If a student completes high school graduation requirements and leaves P-TECH before earning the associate degree, can they get their high school diploma?

Yes, they will receive their high school diploma at that time. However, they will no longer be eligible for the free college tuition through the P-TECH program if they choose to leave the P-TECH program and pursue an associate degree on their own.

P-TECH Funding Mechanisms – Formula Funding and Supplemental Grants

17. How is P-TECH funded and considered cost-free?

There are multiple funding streams that support P-TECH programs. Each is explained below:

- **P-TECH Supplemental School Grants**
 - Annual grants (targeted, non-competitive) from MSDE to school systems with P-TECH programs
 - \$750/student (based on P-TECH program enrollment data as of September 30th as submitted to MSDE by October 30th of each year)
 - Allowable expenditures as designated in the P-TECH Act of 2017
 - School system must match 100% (in-kind matching is allowable) of supplemental school grant funds.

- **P-TECH Supplemental College Grants**
 - Annual grants (targeted, non-competitive) from MSDE to P-TECH College Partners
 - A P-TECH Supplemental College Grant is an amount equal to the tuition and mandatory fees that would normally be charged for the classes in which P-TECH students are enrolled.
 - The state share of a P-TECH Supplemental College Grant shall be calculated and distributed by the state to college partners and equals:
 - 50% for counties that received a Disparity Grant in the prior fiscal year; or
 - 25% for counties that did not received a Disparity Grant in the prior fiscal year.
 - As per the P-TECH Act of 2017, if the funds distributed to the college from the state are not enough to cover the costs of tuition and fees, then the local share of a P-TECH Supplemental College grant shall be calculated and distributed by a county board, to college partners and equals the amount not paid by the state.
 - Items covered under these two grants include but not limited to: tuition, textbooks, field trips, instructional and student support services and materials.

Questions From First Cohort of P-TECH 20-21

18. *What will summers be like? Kai Deudjui*

Busy. Students will be enrolled in at least one summer class every year throughout the P-TECH program.

19. *Will we use *Its Learning* during the summer? Stacy Kamau*

No. You will use the college platform for your summer courses which is currently Canva.

20. *What are the pathways for P-TECH students at Joppatowne? Brea Head*

The two pathways that students can earn there AA degree in, are Cybersecurity and Computer Information Systems.

21. *How do you choose which pathway to pursue? Precious Ikejofor*

Parents and students should research which pathway best fits their child's interests and needs and select prior to the end of their ninth-grade year. After the summer of their ninth-grade year, students will not be able to switch pathways. College courses will be tailored to the pathway students choose.

22. *How many college credits will a P-TECH student earn after finishing P-TECH?*

Emily Sisson

60 college credits from HCC

23. *Will there be assistance and support for college courses? Aniya Watson*

One of the goals of the P-TECH program is to ensure the success of every student. Therefore, students will receive tutoring and instructional supports to help them at every level. Students should take an active role in asking for help and notifying the P-TECH coordinator of any issues or challenges they may have along the journey.

24. *What jobs does APG offer upon graduation and completion of the P-TECH program? Tecla Kariuki*

APG offers entry level positions that are commensurate with cybersecurity and computer information systems. Keep in mind that an entry level position for the two pathways offered by P-TECH can start at \$75,000 dollars.

25. *Who can I contact to find out more information about P-TECH?*

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