

Engineering Career Pathway

What is the Engineering Pathway?

The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) pre-engineering curriculum serves as the engineering career pathway for New Hampshire. The focus of the program is on enhancing students mathematics and science performance and providing students the information necessary to make informed decisions about careers in engineering and engineering technology. The PLTW curriculum is a five-course sequence that starts at the ninth grade and includes course in engineering design, electronics, principles of engineering, manufacturing and mechanical engineering, and, beginning with 2002-03 school year, civil and architectural engineering. The courses meet national standards in math, science, and technology education, and New Hampshire standards in math and science.

What will PLTW prepare students to do?

The United States is suffering from a severe shortage of engineers and well-educated technical workers. Introducing high school students to engineering and engineering technology will attract more of them to these fields and will allow them to determine whether they are interested in pursuing an engineering-related career. Those students who pursue engineering related careers find they command attractive wage and benefit packages as they enter their chosen field.

Which New Hampshire schools are involved?

Thirteen New Hampshire high schools will be offering PLTW courses this fall; they include Hopkinton, John Stark, Milford, Kearsarge, Bow, Merrimack Valley, Nashua, Lisbon, Hillsboro-Deering, Hollis-Brookline, Littleton, Newport, and Laconia.

Is there financial support for schools?

Yes. During its 2002 session, the New Hampshire General Assembly passed into law funds for schools wishing to implement a pre-engineering curriculum. The funding is in the form of matching grants, up to \$25,000 for comprehensive high schools, and \$50,000 for career and technical centers. Schools wishing more information should contact Jim Leon at the Educational Partnership of Central New Hampshire (603) 271-6954 or Ed Taylor at the NH Department of Education (603) 271-3886.

What are the connections with the business community?

PLTW has, since it's beginning, had strong employer support. Each school has a local advisory board that includes members of the business community. The PLTW State Leadership Team either currently includes, or has included: Graphicast, Freedom Partners, Haley and Aldrich, Celestica, BAE Systems, Intelitek, H.L. Turner, The Nashua Group, Heidelberg Press, and Praxair-Tafa.

Does PLTW have articulation agreements with local colleges?

New Hampshire Technical Institute has established articulation agreements with each of the PLTW. In addition, the students of PLTW schools who meet accreditation standards established by the Rochester Institute of Technology are eligible for credit in engineering technology majors.

Are there other arrangements with local colleges?

Yes. PLTW students can earn up to twelve credits at the New Hampshire Technical Institute through the Community/Technical College Systems' Project Running Start.

For More Information

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