

Alternative Pathways to Completion: Project Summary and Timeline

What is Alternative Pathways to Completion?

Alternative Pathway to Completion Tool Kit – The New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education, is conducting an 18-month project called Alternative Pathways to Completion. The project is designed to help students, parents, and school staff make informed decisions when choosing the best pathway for a student to successfully complete high school. Alternative Pathways to Completion will develop resources and provide technical assistance in support of existing alternative programs that expand opportunities for high school students to earn a secondary school credential through alternatives to the traditional diploma path.

For students, parents, and school staff to make informed decisions, they need information about all program alternatives in one, easy-to-navigate format that provides detailed information about eligibility requirements, process, participation goals, and anticipated outcomes. The project seeks to ensure that students who need an alternative program for completion can locate the information they need by looking in one place – a Tool Kit that houses information on alternative programs and local district program options. The Tool Kit will include existing resources and newly developed tools, such as templates for an Alternative Learning Plan, program infographics, and promotional materials that can be customized to meet the needs of each program or school district.

Following the development of the Tool Kit, program staff will receive training, so that the resources associated with each program can be used beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. On-going training will be offered to stakeholder groups.

The Tool Kit will include information and user-friendly tools to facilitate an understanding of 14 alternative completion programs currently in place:

Programs offering credit toward a diploma/high school equivalency

Adult Diploma Program
Education Freedom Accounts
Extended Learning Opportunities
Learn Everywhere
Pre-apprenticeship/Apprenticeship

Programs offering a secondary school credential

Adult Diploma Program
Alternative High School (local option)
Alternative Learning Plan
Career Academy
Charter Schools
Combination Diploma (local option)
High School Equivalency Certificate
Home Education
Non-public Schools Tiered Diploma (local option)

“CTE After Dark” Alternative Learning Program Model – This project provides resources to develop an additional alternative program model. Called “CTE After Dark” because some classes are held after school hours, this program will enable students to continue academic classes while participating in Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes that lead to industry certifications. Guidelines for the program will reflect input from stakeholders as well as established programs across the nation. Two pilot sites will be identified, and technical assistance will be provided to the pilot sites as they prepare to offer the program in 2023-2024.

Timeline of Major Activities

Tool Kit

Gather information about 14 existing programs	March – April 2022
Write profiles of Alternative Learning Plans’ best practices to inform Alternative Learning Plan template	May – June 2022
Seek user input on Tool Kit; identify existing program resources that students/parents use and develop needed materials	June – August 2022
Introduce Tool Kit through training, technical assistance, and dissemination efforts	September – November 2022

New Alternative Learning Program

Convene “CTE After Dark” Advisory Committee to advise model development	September 2022 – February 2023
Gather information about existing CTE programs that offer classes after school hours, and create profiles with best practices	September – October 2022
Review “after dark” options; create handbook that describes model	October 2022 – February 2023
Facilitate implementation of “CTE After Dark” pilots	April – September 2023

The Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education, has engaged the National Center for College and Career Transitions (NC3T), an education services and technology organization based in Columbia, Maryland, to facilitate the activities associated with this project that result in the development of the Tool Kit and technical assistance to educators and stakeholders who will use the Tool Kit. NC3T will also provide assistance in creating a model for “CTE After Dark” and establishing a pilot of the program.

Get in Touch

For information about this project, please contact Sarah Wheeler at the New Hampshire Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education. Sarah.L.Wheeler@doe.nh.gov

You can also get more information from the National Center for College and Career Transitions at www.NC3T.com.

