

# Pueblo City Schools

## Pueblo School District 60

### Background

The Pueblo (City) 60 School District has used Perkins funding to execute four projects. The projects include: 1) **Funding CTE Career Counseling and Support Personnel**; 2) **Modernizing the Health Academy, Communication Technology and Pro Start programs**; 3) **Acquisition/training to begin using ACE Program Career Readiness Software**; and 4) **Support for Construction Technology/CAD**.

Specifically, funds were used to hire a part-time Career Center assistant, Health occupations career assistant, and a part-time instructor to support Construction Technology/CAD. Software/licenses were acquired for the Communication Technology Program, **ACE Key Train** career readiness software (site licenses) and the **Naviance** college/workplace readiness counseling system.

Further, the District used funds to modernize programs. Equipment acquired to accomplish this included a Health Academy Promethean Board, computers for Communications Technology and the Health Academy and supplies for the ProStart culinary program.

Finally, Perkins funds were used for training and instruction for teachers to enable them to implement the **Key Train** career readiness software.

### Key Innovation(s)

Key innovations Perkins funding has facilitated at the District include:

- Use of **Key Train** career readiness software to enable special student populations to score higher on both Work Keys and SATs. Key Train promotes innovative, proactive thinking to both engage students and increase assessment scores. (Central High School)
- Use of a **Communications Technology Lab** to increase access for students to develop projects utilizing the highest levels of industry standards, including industry-standard software such as: Photoshop, Video Screen Cast and other innovative software. (Central High School)
- Use of **Naviance** to: recruit and retain participants in CTE programs ensure placement into postsecondary opportunities (assisted by College in Colorado resources) and aid in job placement through resume development. **Naviance** has also assisted students with developing a professional portfolio and has helped coordinate the dissemination of information about career/postsecondary opportunities. (Central High School)
- Coordination with **Habitat for Humanity** to provide authentic learning in a “real world” setting in Construction Trades. (Central and Centennial High Schools)
- **Dual enrollment** in the **Health Academy** is available to all Pueblo students including Certified Nurs-

ing Assistant coursework and other pre-requisites for nursing and other health-related occupational areas. Up to 18 college credits may be attained during the high school career. The District boasts a 100 percent pass rate on CNA certification. (Centennial High School)

- Use of **digital media technology** to create projects utilizing current media including the production of note pads, flyers, T-shirts, magazine covers, photo development, business cards and additional school printing. Further, District CTE students are encouraged to use these projects for fundraising that helps support the CTE program objectives. (Centennial High School)

## Key Factors to Implementation

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Key to implementing the District’s model CTE program have been a focus on Student Transitions and CTE Teacher Support.

### Student Transitions

- Student-transition guidance is benefitting from curricula mapping of all the District’s CTE programs.
- Plans of Study have been developed for all CTE programs. These will be implemented this year.
- A **Freshman Seminar** has been implemented to provide a seamless transition for students between middle and high school. This program begins the second semester of 8th grade and continues through 9th grade. A similar **Senior Seminar** will be implemented this year. The purpose of the seminars is to be intentional about **career development** and to assist with high school/college transition using career and academic plans.

### CTE Teacher Support

- The District has demonstrated good use of Perkins funding to enhance not only classrooms, but to enable faculty to interact at authentic work sites (e.g. the **Habitat for Humanity** project).
- The District ensures that Perkins funding enables dollars to be available for professional development.

## RESULTS

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The District’s CTE administration has demonstrated an exemplary ability to leverage Perkins funding for remarkable enhancements to their offerings.

The District’s strategic plan is based upon the **Four-Pillar Model**: Prevention, Intervention, Credit Recovery and Dropout Retrieval.

The District's CTE division is responsible for the "*Multiple Pathways to Graduation*" component of the strategic plan. This component is designed to promote higher participation in CTE and ensure an increase in graduation rates and a decrease in dropout rates. Further, it targets at-risk students for concurrent enrollment into high school and community college.

Success achieved by targeted students includes the fact that last year, eight students graduated from high school and community college at the same time. This year, it is anticipated that there will be 23 simultaneous high school/college graduates.