

Action Item - 25

Board of Education Meeting Date: 3/27/2025

Title: Authorization to Make Payments to Additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) Vendors for PDE Approved Certification Opportunities for CTE Students – Added 3.13.2025

Action Under Consideration:

The Administration recommends that the Board of Education authorize The School District of Philadelphia, through the Superintendent or his designee, to authorize the payment of invoices from the following additional Career and Technical Education (CTE) vendors who provide Industry Certification assessments, subject to funding, as follows:

With:

Kaleidoscope Learning Inc.
CompTIA, Inc

Purpose:

Add additional credentialing vendors for PDE Approved CTE certification opportunities for CTE students

Start date: 3/28/2025

End date: 6/30/2025

Currently Authorized Compensation: \$350,000 aggregate total

Additional Compensation: \$0

Total new compensation not to exceed: All approved CTE vendors, including these additional vendors, will be paid out of the total aggregate amount of \$350,000

Renewal Options: Yes

Number of Options: 3

Duration of each option to extend: 1 Year

Compensation per option period: All approved CTE vendors, including these additional vendors, will be paid out of a total not to exceed aggregate amount of \$350,000 per option period

Location(s):

Various High Schools

Description:

Why is this contract needed?

A fundamental component of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming is to prepare students for meaningful employment and/or post-secondary education. Pursuing and achieving an industry certification allows high school students to acquire and practice some of the most critical college and career-readiness skills, such as critical thinking, focusing, and the ability to prioritize. This Action Item authorizes additional vendors to provide those services.

How is this work connected to the District's plan to achieve Goals & Guardrails?

The Office of Career and Technical Education pays the costs associated with CTE students earning industry-recognized certifications. These costs include fees from various agencies to assess and administer exams. This gives students the opportunity to earn certifications at no cost to them or their families. Earning industry certifications is critical to our goal of students graduating ready for college and careers. In addition, industry credentialing of CTE students addresses federal and Pennsylvania Department of Education mandates, specifically, that approved CTE programs maintain high levels of excellence supported through measurements of performance that align to industry-recognized certifications. These industry-recognized credentials measure competence in core content and performance standards in a specific set of work-related tasks. The work-related tasks and assessments connect with workforce demands. Every school offering one or more CTE programs has the opportunity to administer a certification exam.

Does this Action Item support a specific strategy/intervention identified in the Strategic Plan?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) allows students to tailor their learning to career interests and individual needs. CTE students are more likely to graduate on time, pursue postsecondary education, and earn higher wages. Purchasing CTE certifications ensures equitable access to resources and supports the District's Guardrail 5: Goal 5—to increase the percentage of CTE students passing industry competency assessments from 49.1% in 2023 to 80.0% by 2030.

How will the success of this contract be measured?

In 2023-24, CTE students earned approximately 4,140 certifications, which is a 9% increase from 2022-23, where CTE students earned 3,797 certifications, and we are actively working to continue to increase student attainment of industry certifications.

When applicable, was a larger community of District community members and/or stakeholders involved in this selection process? If so, what groups and how?

The Bureau of Career and Technical Education determines what industry credentials are offered to students in each program and what vendor/ supplier we can utilize. The process involves Industry Advisory Board input and evaluation across the state regarding the validity of credentials and suppliers/ vendors. This data is collected and

reported to the state each year. Through this authorizing action item, the central office staff and schools will have access to a wide variety of certification resources that are aligned with the District's academic goals, supporting Board Goal 5: 80% of Career and Technical Education(CTE) students will pass an industry standards-based competency assessment by the end of 12th grade.

Related resolution(s)/approval(s):

August 22, 2024, No. 23

April 30, 2020, #50

September 19, 2019; No. 34

May 17, 2018; B-16

November 16, 2017; B-8

Funding Source(s): FY24-25 Operating and Perkins

Office Originating Request:

Academic Services