



PENNSYLVANIA

State Profile

Academic Pathways	Present in the State		Special Efforts to Reach Underserved Students		State Support	
ACT 101 (Higher Education Equal Opportunity Program)	Yes	Established by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 1971 and providing support through counseling, tutoring, and summer programs	Yes	Underserved low-income students	Yes	\$ 9.3 million in state funds
<u>Advanced Placement (AP)</u>	Yes	Competitive grant to enable states to reimburse low-income students for part or all of the cost of AP test fees	Yes	Low-income students	No	No centralized policy for the AP programs; varies from school district to district.
Bridge Programs	Yes	Full-time students admitted to the Act 101 program are required to attend a 6-week summer bridge program designed to help students transition from high school to college.	Yes	Closely related to universities or colleges' mission and students' interest	Yes	State funding; scholarships
<u>Career Academies</u>	Yes	The Philadelphia Academies, Inc. is dedicated to strengthening public school students' academic and occupational skills, enhancing post-graduation options and contributing to the development of a stable workforce.	Yes	Non-traditional students who are career oriented	Yes	Some federal funding
<u>Charter Schools</u>	Yes	Established by Act 22 in 1997. Now, 101 charter schools are operating in Pennsylvania. This represents an enrollment of nearly 35,000 students.	Yes	At-risk students	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State funds are allocated to high schools • 1997 Charter School legislation
College Level Exam Program (CLEP)	Yes	No details known or available	No		DK	No details known or available

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<u>Distance Learning/ Virtual School</u>	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Cyber Charter Schools approved by PA Department of Education Distance learning project primarily run through community colleges 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home schooled students Students with disabilities 	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New legislation passed in 2002 to address cyber charter schools. PA Department of Education has authority to grant cyber charters to cyber schools rather than local education agencies Distance learning projects of community colleges are primarily locally funded
Dual Credit/ Dual Enrollment	Yes	The operation of programs is regionalized not centralized	No		Yes	Legislation for a systematic funding mechanism for this program will be developed in the next 6 months.
Early or Middle College High Schools	Yes	Two middle college high schools	Yes	Traditionally marginalized student populations	No	No state funding is designated for the program; run through private funding
<u>GEAR UP</u>	Yes	PA has both a Philadelphia grant and a statewide grant.	Yes	Works to increase the college attendance rates of all underserved populations	Yes	The state system of higher education provides substantial match for the programs
<u>GED in College Settings</u>	Yes	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luzerne County Community College Mansfield University Community College of Philadelphia 	Yes	No details known or available	Yes	State funding
High Schools That Work	Yes	The primary focus is on reading and how it relates to career and technical education (CTE).	No		Yes	The state is determining reading shortfalls through assessments and will address them to put rigor into academic studies.
International Baccalaureate (IB)	Yes	7 high schools participating	No		No	
<u>Project 720</u>	Yes	In its first year, this statewide high school reform program emphasizes multiple pathways and increased academic rigor.	Yes	Many of the initial grant recipients educate underserved students	Yes	State appropriations for the reform grants

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Senior Choice Project	Yes	Senior high school students can take college classes and high school courses at a central location; not as comprehensive as early college, but a new program with a lot of promise, according to state officials.	Yes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-achieving students • Low-income students • Rural students • Urban students 	Yes	State funding
<u>Tech Prep</u>	Yes	Combines at least two years of high school education with two years of postsecondary education; Articulated programs combine a common core of math, science and communications with a specific field of technical preparation	Yes	Special efforts made to serve some neglected schools beyond Philadelphia and Pittsburg area	Yes	Federal Perkins funds

Summary of academic pathways:

The highest priority of the state of Pennsylvania is placed on dual credit/dual enrollment and the early college high school initiative to enhance students’ access to college. Even though the early college high school initiative is in an early state of development, its outcome is expected to be positive. Interestingly, there is a similar pathway that is not as comprehensive in terms of institutional structure, called Senior Choice Initiative, that provides senior high school students with the opportunity to earn high school and college credits.

State’s effort to encourage college prep curriculum:

The state is beginning discussion on how to ensure that all students have access to a core college prep curriculum.

Interesting or unique models identified by state officials:

Senior Choice Project

Observations by state officials about special efforts to reach underserved students:

Of those existing pathways in the state, Tech Prep, early college high school, GED in college settings, charter schools, career academies, and Senior Choice Project make special attempts to serve traditionally underserved students.



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Observations by state officials about state support for pathways:

Pennsylvania does not have centralized and systematic control over most of the academic pathways present in the state. However, there has been an effort to develop a new policy that strengthens oversight of decentralized programs and funding streams, particularly for dual credit/dual enrollment.

Lessons learned by state officials:

- Dual enrollment is more successful when high school students take courses on college campuses as opposed to their being in high school settings and taught by adjunct faculty or high school teachers.
- The state is moving toward statewide centralization and legislation that will place a high priority on collaboration between universities and high schools.

Programs recommended by state officials:

<u>Pathways</u>	<u>Educational Institution</u>	<u>Contact person</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Dual Credit/Dual Enrollment	California University of Pennsylvania	--	--	--
Unique model: Senior Choice Project	Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit	Marjorie Wallace	--	(814) 734-8412

State official's contact information:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>E-mail</u>	<u>Phone</u>
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(Prepared by Eunyoung Kim/ Updated December, 2004/ *State official referred by both higher education and K-12 agency officials because of specialized expertise on this topic.)