



Prairie du Chien Area School District  
Education for Employment &  
Academic and Career Plan

Wisconsin s.s. 121.02 / PI 26

July 2017

Adopted by the Prairie du Chien Board of Education August 14, 2017

Updated 11/30/2022



## **OUR VISION**

Innovation for Success

## **OUR MISSION**

The Prairie du Chien Area School District in partnership with families and a supportive community, shares a strong commitment to provide quality educational opportunities to all, thus encouraging lifelong learning and nurturing honest, respectful, and responsible citizens prepared to meet the challenges of a changing global society.

## **ABOUT THE PRAIRIE DU CHIEN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Often referred to as Wisconsin's second oldest city, Prairie du Chien was established as a European settlement by French voyageurs in the late seventeenth century. The city is located near the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers, a strategic point along the Fox-Wisconsin Waterway that connects the Great Lakes with the Mississippi. Prairie du Chien is the largest city in Crawford County with a population of 5,487 (State of Wisconsin DWD). The city lies in the heart of America's dairyland, with its gently rolling hills, lazy streams, and rich soil.

The Prairie du Chien Area School District consists of students from the community of and from the surrounding area of Prairie du Chien. The district is comprised of B.A. Kennedy Elementary (3K-2), Bluff View Intermediate (3-8), and Prairie du Chien High School (9-12).

Major employers in and near the community of Prairie du Chien include 3M Company, Cabela's, Crossing Rivers Health, Walmart, Prairie Industries, Miniature Precision Components, Dillman Equipment, Design Homes, Wisconsin Department of Corrections, Prairie du Chien School Area Schools, and Pattison Sand. Prairie du Chien area employers are facing a skills gap due in part to a lack of skilled workers and the exit of Baby Boomers (people born between 1946 and 1964) from the labor market. The top three areas of employment are:

1. Trade, Transportation, Utilities (approximately 25% of total employment)
2. Manufacturing (approximately 20% of total employment)
3. Education and Health (approximately 20% of total employment)

(2021 Crawford County Workforce Profile, State of Wisconsin DWD).

## **WHAT IS PI 26?**

Chapter PI 26 (Education for Employment Plans and Program) is a state law that mandates "every school board shall provide access to an education for employment program approved by the state superintendent . . . the state superintendent shall ensure that every school board is providing academic and career planning services to pupils enrolled in grades 6-12 in the school district beginning in the 2017-18 school year."

## **SECTION 121.02(1)(M) ASSURANCES**

*Requirements:*

1. Applied curricula
2. Guidance and counseling services
3. Technical preparation under section 118.34 of the statutes
4. College preparation
5. Youth Apprenticeship opportunities
6. Instruction in skills relating to employment

The Prairie du Chien Area School District is compliant in all areas noted under Section 121.01(1)(m).

## ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS OF PI-26

- ✓ Annually notify parents of its education for employment program
- ✓ Annual review of district's E4E (Education for Employment) program and long-range plan
- ✓ Annual report after the annual review
- ✓ Publish long-range plan and the annual program report on the district website

The annual requirements of PI-26 will be performed by the district ACP Coordinator (Max Grinde 608-326-3842, [grindema@pdc.k12.wi.us](mailto:grindema@pdc.k12.wi.us)) and district administration.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYMENT?

The purpose of education for employment programs is to do all of the following:

- a. Prepare elementary and secondary pupils for future employment.
- b. Ensure technological literacy; to promote lifelong learning.
- c. Promote good citizenship
- d. Promote cooperation among business, industry, labor, postsecondary schools, and public schools.
- e. Establish a role for public schools in the economic development of Wisconsin.

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ACADEMIC AND CAREER PLANNING?

The purpose of academic and career planning services is to assist pupils with planning and preparing for opportunities after graduating from high school. ACP is a student-driven, adult-supported ongoing process that actively engages students enabling them to:

- Understand their own interests, strengths, values, learning styles
- Create a vision of their future
- Develop individual goals
- Prepare a personal plan for achieving their vision and goals

Students create and cultivate their own unique and information-based visions for post-secondary success, obtained through self-exploration, career exploration, and the development of career management and planning skills. Students in grades 6-12 will participate in ACP programming.



# xello

A major tool in the implementation of academic and career planning will be the use of Xello, a career development software, as a primary tool in grades 6-12 to help students gain self-awareness, explore postsecondary and career

options, document their academic and career plans, and review and revise their plans, as needed.

Homeroom advisors will stay with their mentees throughout high school in order to build relationships and continue to guide students in their career goals and fulfillment of those goals. Students own and control the direction of their ACP process, are ultimately responsible for completing the portfolio requirements within their ACP, and following through with the goals and directions they establish within their plan, all with the support of parents, educators, and mentors along the way.

## HOW WE HELP STUDENTS BECOME COLLEGE AND CAREER READY



- Extensive course offerings in core education, physical education, CTE (Agriculture Education, Business & Information Technology, Family & Consumer Education, and Technology Education), foreign language (Chinese and Spanish), and fine arts (art, instrumental music, and vocal music).
  - 16 AP (Advanced Placement) offerings with AP credit opportunities through AP exams
  - 27 Southwest Technical College transcribed credit offerings
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) course offerings in the Biomedical Pathway
- GED/II program
- Mighty River Virtual Academy
- Professional certifications including Microsoft Office Specialist and Comp TIA A+
- Use of Xello software for personal assessments, career exploration, and electronic portfolios beginning in sixth grade and continuing through twelfth grade
- Partnerships with local businesses including guest speakers, job shadows, mock interviews, and department staff meetings
- Small group and individual mentoring daily via home rooms
- Co-curricular organizations including CTSOs
- Freshmen careers course requirement
  - Includes guided career exploration, resume writing, job applications, interviewing skills, soft skills, guest speakers, work-site visits, and job shadows
- Parent/teacher conferences
- Multiple communications with parents
- Youth Apprenticeships
- Employability Skills Certificates
- Job shadows
- College fairs
- Two-year and four-year post-secondary institution tours
- Local on campus visits from college and military representatives
- Volunteer opportunities
- Individual college and worksite visits



## **PARTNERS IN EDUCATION**

The Prairie du Chien Area School District partners and collaborates with a number of businesses and service organizations. Our partners work with school representatives to help expose our students to local career opportunities and lend support to our students in multiple ways including job shadows, leadership opportunities, speaking engagements, and more.

The Prairie du Chien Area School District and Southwest Technical College have a close partnership and work collaboratively in a number of ways including transcribed credit, college tours, youth options and more.

*PRAIRIE DU CHIEN AREA SCHOOLS 1010 NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY It shall be the policy of the Prairie du Chien Area School District not to discriminate against a student because of age, sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability which substantially interferes with a student's school performance or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment. Further, this school district shall comply with Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972 in that no student shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any education program or activity.*