

March 7, 2024

Dear colleagues,

I am excited to share that the School District has reinvested in its partnership with the City of Philadelphia Office of Children and Families and Philadelphia Works to launch a new youth workforce initiative called Career Connected Learning PHL (C2L-PHL).

The [Board of Education's Goals and Guardrails](#), and the District's strategic plan – [Accelerate Philly](#) – prioritize preparing students for college or career after high school. C2L-PHL builds upon the well-laid foundation set by WorkReady, and increases the depth and breadth of opportunities to support postsecondary readiness, with the goal of ultimately becoming Philadelphia's primary integrated youth workforce system. Where WorkReady was managed and administered by Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), [JEVS Human Services](#) will step in as the operational manager of C2L-PHL. Together, they will integrate work-based learning activities from across the city, broadening opportunities for Philadelphia youth to achieve career success.

C2L-PHL's new program model goes beyond traditional summer work placement, ensuring year-round opportunities for thousands of young people. Work-based learning activities will include internships, experiential learning projects, career exploration and mentoring, professional development, and job shadowing. We expect C2L-PHL enrollment to open this spring. We will share more information about the official timeline and implementation for C2L-PHL, including its alignment with existing and future District programs and summer opportunities, very soon. In the meantime, you can learn more about it at phila.gov/c2lphl.

As a District, we understand that we serve a diverse population with a wide variety of needs, goals and desires. So C2L-PHL is only one of the many Career Preparation Programs that the District has in place to support Philadelphia students in preparing for life after high school.

Our [Career & Technical Education \(CTE\) Program](#) combines academic instruction with work-based learning. CTE students receive over 1,000 hours of hands-on experience and training with professionals from over 40 different industries. Through our partnership with the [Community College of Philadelphia](#), students at certain District high schools can participate in Powerskills Academy to receive industry training, and in some cases certifications, in a variety of occupational fields including Information Technology, Advance Manufacturing, Pharmacy Technician, Dental and Nursing Assistant and more. Through our partnership with [Junior Achievement of Southeastern PA](#), middle and high school students receive access to internships, career awareness programming, and specific support in subjects like financial literacy, economics and business.

Additionally, we have a wealth of partnerships that offer training for very specific vocations including (but not limited to):

- [Temple Real Estate Institute](#) – At West Philadelphia High School, the Institute offers worked-based learning experiences and industry-based credentials in real estate.
- [Center for Black Educator Development](#) – At Science Leadership Academy at Beeber, the Center offers a Teacher Pipeline program for students who want to pursue a career in education.
- [Children's Hospital of Philadelphia](#) – Offers CPR, AED and Stop the Bleed certifications for students at select schools who are interested in the healthcare or public safety fields.

If you have specific questions about any of these or a different career preparation program, please contact our office of Pathways to Graduation at collegeandcareer@philasd.org.

These existing programs, and the ones still to be developed, are intended to provide Philadelphia's youth with every opportunity to succeed as productive citizens of our city and our world. This is all part of our ongoing effort to prepare students to imagine and realize any future they desire!

Sincerely,

Jermaine Dawson, Ed.D.
Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services
The School District of Philadelphia