

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education  
May 2, 2016  
Penn\*Link Message

TO: All LEA

FROM: Lee Burket, Ed.D., Director  
Bureau of Career and Technical Education

SUBJECT: Access to Career and Technical Education

As you prepare for the 2016-17 school year, please ensure your local education agency is complying with the state's statutes regarding access to career and technical education. As provided in the Pennsylvania Code (22 Pa Code 4.23 (d)(1)), career and technical education shall be made available to every student in a public high school program. If a school district, or the career and technical center in which the district participates, does not offer a specific career and technical education program, the district of residence must work with another school district or career and technical center to make this program available to interested students. Additionally, the district of residence must pay for this education and must not limit the number of students who receive career and technical education.

**Article 18 of the Pennsylvania School Code (24 P.S. § 18-1809) provides that:**

“(a) Any resident of any school district which does not maintain an approved vocational... class, school or department, offering the type of training which he desires, may make application to the board of school directors of any other district for admission to such school or department maintained by said board. If the board refuses him admission, he may apply to the State Board for Vocational Education for admission to such school or department. The State Board for Vocational Education may approve or disapprove such application. In making such decision the State Board for Vocational Education shall take into consideration the opportunities for free vocational training in the community in which the applicant resides, the financial status of the community, the age, preparation, aptitude and previous record of the applicant, and all other relevant circumstances. The decision of the State Board for Vocational Education shall be final...

(c) The school district in which the person resides, who has been admitted, as above provided, to an approved vocational.... school or department maintained by another school district, shall pay the high school charge provided for by this act. If any school district neglects or refuses to pay for such tuition, it shall be liable therefore, in an action of contract, to the school district or school districts maintaining the school which the pupil, with the approval of the board, attended.”

If you have additional questions, please contact Lee Burket, PDE's bureau director for Career and Technical Education, at [lburket@pa.gov](mailto:lburket@pa.gov) or 717-787-5530.