

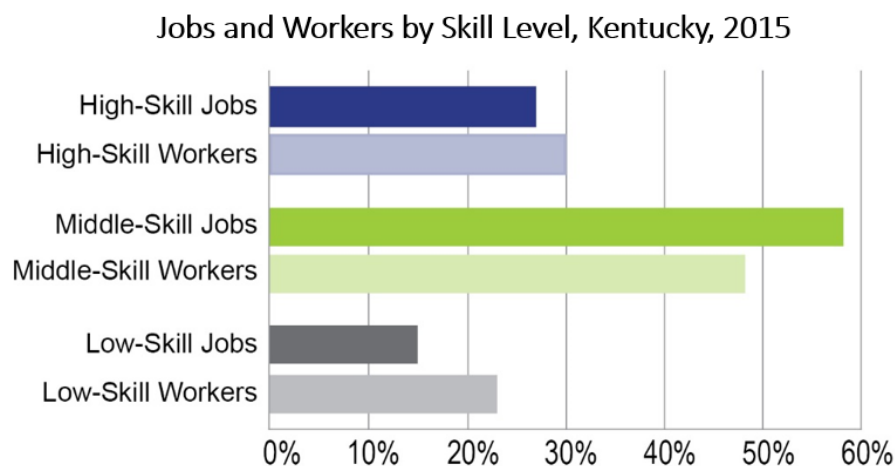
Kentucky Board of Education Meeting – June 6, 2018
Education and Workforce Development Cabinet Secretary's Report
Secretary Derrick K. Ramsey

Pathways in Technology Early College High School, P-TECH Schools

Pathways in Technology Early College High Schools (P-TECH) were created in 2011 to help students obtain the skills needed to enter careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) related fields. They were also created to help solve the growing skills gap in the U.S. – there are 28 million middle skill jobs — those that require an associate degree or similar technical training — currently vacant in the U.S. The issue is prevalent in Kentucky as well. Middle-skill jobs account for 58 percent of Kentucky's labor market, but only 48 percent of the state's workers obtain the skills needed to perform these jobs.

A Middle-Skill Gap

Middle-skill jobs account for 58 percent of Kentucky's labor market, but only 48 percent of the state's workers are trained to the middle-skill level.



Source: National Skills Coalition analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment Statistics by State, May 2015 and American Community Survey data, 2015.

In a P-TECH school, students can earn a high school diploma, an industry-recognized associate degree from a community college, and gain relevant work experience. After program completion, students will emerge into their careers debt-free. Currently, there are over 70 P-TECH schools throughout the U.S., Australia, Morocco and Taiwan using this model.

Co-developed by the International Business Machines Corporation (IBM), education leaders, government officials and policymakers, over 400 industry partners support P-TECH schools. IBM

works directly with the business partners to help ease the students' transition from the classroom to the workforce by offering internships and potential employment upon graduation. Students have the choice of either entering the workforce after completion of an associate's degree, or pursuing a bachelor's degree.

The P-TECH model is constantly growing both in the U.S. and globally to help employers meet the challenge of finding skilled workers for STEM-related fields.

Kentucky does not currently have any P-TECH schools; however, the Dual Credit Scholarship is providing a way for high school students to receive some college experience before graduation. Additionally, with the expansion of career and technical centers throughout the state as a result of the Work Ready Skills Initiative, the Commonwealth has the potential to make P-TECH schools a reality.

Since January 2017, 40 Work Ready Skills Initiative projects have begun, with many already training students for high-demand technology jobs in STEM fields and beyond. Launched in July 2016, the initiative is aimed at developing a highly trained, modernized workforce to meet the needs of employers and promote sustainable incomes for Kentuckians. Through the initiative, Kentucky has awarded \$100 million in statewide bonds aimed at training Kentuckians to work in the state's top five high-demand fields – advanced manufacturing, business/IT, construction trades, health care, and transportation/logistics.

Projects funded by the \$100 million Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative — and \$150 million in locally matched funds — are off to a fast start in the Commonwealth. Since January 2017, 40 projects have begun, with many already training students for high-demand technology jobs.

Registered Apprenticeship is a work-based earn-and-learn model that meets national standards for registration with the U.S. Department of Labor and the Kentucky Office of Apprenticeship. This program also has the potential of being blended into the P-TECH model. It is a formal system of employee training that combines on-the-job learning with related technical instruction. Currently, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet has registered over 220 different programs that apprentice 3,100 people across the state.

P-TECH schools offer many benefits to Kentucky's students, employers and its workforce ecosystem. The model, referred to 9-14 for the grades it represents, is designed to motivate and enable more students to earn a college degree and successfully transition into the workplace, with the preparation and skills needed by employers.

It gives students a better understanding of the many different career pathways that exist, and allows employers to take an active role in training their future workforce. I encourage the Kentucky Board of Education to visit ptech.org and to generate a conversation about how the P-TECH model could be used in the Commonwealth.