

National PLTW Changes

Ohio's Response

New District and School Agreement

National PLTW will now offer two different District and School Agreements. Schools wishing to fully implement PTLW will be required to sign a **STEM Agreement**. Full implementation requires teacher training, a minimum of 3 courses, and ongoing teacher professional development. Schools wishing to offer “a few” courses will sign a non-STEM agreement and will **not** be considered a PTLW program. These schools must meet the teacher training requirements. Full implementation will be required to be nationally certified.

All schools currently offering PLTW will be asked to re-sign their agreement over the course of the next two years in order to upgrade their agreement to a STEM Agreement.

Ohio's response

- 1) All current PTLW programs are encouraged to re-sign the new District and School agreement as soon as possible.
- 2) Programs seeking national certification in 2011 will be asked to have the new STEM agreement in place.
- 3) In Ohio, schools offering “a few” courses (less than full implementation) will be defined as those schools offering less than **four courses** with no partnership or agreement with another secondary, career technical or post-secondary institution giving students access to the full program.
- 4) Schools opting to offer “a few” courses **will not be consider as part of the PTLW network in Ohio**. PLTW programs in Ohio are Career Technical College Tech Prep programs and require a minimum of 450 hours of instruction. Schools offering “a few” courses will **not** be eligible to be an approved CTE program or a College Tech Prep program unless they can show documentation of a partnership with another secondary school, career technical center, or post-secondary partner giving students access to the full program.
- 5) Schools offering “a few” courses may not report these courses as CTE courses. The local school/district will need to define how the course credit will be awarded (e.g. technical education; science; math) and will need to consider “highly qualified” teacher requirements and appropriate licensure.
- 6) School offering “a few” course may **not** advertise that they are offering or participating in PLTW or in the PLTW Ohio initiative.
- 7) Schools offering “a few” courses may participate in the Summer Teacher Training Institutes at the Ohio PLTW State Affiliate at Sinclair Community College, Dayton and

- attend the Annual PLTW Ohio Fall Conference, however fees for non-PLTW participants is under consideration.
- 8) Schools intending to offer less than four courses will not be listed on the PLTW Ohio website.
 - 9) Schools intending to offer less than four courses will not be eligible for any funds offered through the Ohio Department of Education Office of Career Technical Education at this time.
 - 10) Ohio will monitor schools to ensure that the guidelines for operation are adhered to.

National PLTW will reduce the required number of course for full implementation to three courses.

National PLTW has reduced the number of courses to be offered for full implementation to three courses. However, four courses must be offered at the high school level or students must have access to four courses to be eligible for national certification.

Ohio's response

In Ohio, all PLTW high school programs are Career Technical College Tech Prep programs. A program must be an approved Career Technical Education (CTE) program to be eligible for Perkins funding. Ohio defines a CTE program as a **minimum of 450 hours**. Therefore, Ohio will continue to consider a fully implemented PTLW program as offering four courses at the high school level. This may be accomplished through agreements or partnerships with other secondary, career technical centers or post-secondary institutions.

National PLTW will now consider Digital Electronics an elective

National PLTW will no longer consider Digital Electronics as one of the core courses in the program. The required programs will be Introduction to Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering.

Ohio's response

Ohio supported this move several years ago and was reversed by national PTLW. Ohio will consider Digital Electronics (DE) as an elective. However, programs that are currently offering DE are encouraged to continue to do so. All PLTW electives are reported under separate EMIS Subject Codes in Ohio to allow the State to monitor the Third Frontier areas being supported by CTE education. ODE Office of Career Technical Education will consider requesting a new EMIS Subject Code for DE. Programs currently offering the program should continue to report DE under the EMIS Subject Code of 171815 until further notice.

Other PLTW news

National PTLW is attempting to negotiate a multi-year lease agreement with AutoDesk Inventor to allow schools to use the software for more than one year. Currently the lease agreement covers one high school and two middle schools per year. A multi-year contract will allow schools to use a version of software for multiple years. They are attempting to align this with the 3 year cycle on which the curriculum is updated.

The purchasing manual will be moved on-line.

PLTW will switch from Fischertechnics to VEX manipulatives.