

Ohio PLTW Tiered Certification Process

Beginning in January 2007, the Ohio Project Lead the Way initiative adopted a two-tiered certification process. This process allows all programs to seek and obtain provisional certification within the first year of implementation and National Certification within two to three years of implementation. National Certification is reserved for programs of excellence or “best practice”. This process formalizes and differentiates between programs that are meeting the program requirements and those that are striving for excellence in all aspects of their program.

Ohio Provisional Certification

During the first year of implementation, all PLTW program sites will be visited for technical assistance purposes. The site visit pre-assessment form, filled out by all programs before the first year site visit, can be found on the PLTW Ohio website at www.pltwohio.org. The basic format for these visits will remain the same. However, beginning in February 2007, first year programs meeting all national and state requirements for implementation are now eligible for Ohio Provisional Certification. Following a site visit during which a program is shown to be meeting all requirements, a summary report will be forwarded by the State Affiliate to PLTW National indicating that the program is provisionally certified. This allows provisionally certified programs access to the end of course Part C exams for all courses. There is no fee for the first year visit. We will continue to provide first year programs with feedback and assistance for improvement.

Ohio Provisional Certification will be valid for a period not to exceed three years, at which time programs must apply for full National Certification or re-evaluate their Project Lead the Way status.

National Certification

National Certification, as required by the school agreement with PLTW, is to be scheduled by each PLTW program with the State Affiliate within two - three years of implementation. We will continue to conduct the national certification site visit as we have done previously, and a \$500 fee will apply.

Designation of full National Certification will be based on a program meeting and exceeding all program requirements, including but not limited to:

- the development of local/regional business and industry partnerships
- unique relationships with post-secondary partners for the smooth transition of students to higher education

- student mentorship programs and Engineering Design and Development research done in conjunction with post-secondary and business and industry partners
- engaged guidance counselors and school administration
- effective and/or unique marketing strategies to increase enrollment and/or narrow gender and ethnicity gaps
- student performance and outcomes
- participation in PLTW True Outcomes data collection

National Certification will distinguish a program as exemplary and allow students to participate in national articulation with colleges and universities around the nation.

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