

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Introduction:** This Glossary has been developed to support the valid completion of the *Career Pathways Self Assessment* Instrument. The terms included in this Glossary have been selected to provide definition and uniform application of key terminology used in the self assessment instrument. Also, it should be noted that each of the terms included in the Glossary has been underlined in the self assessment instrument.

**Statement of Purpose:** Career Pathways is an initiative to change the way students learn. It is intended to benefit all students, whatever their career goals. Career Pathways presents well-structured curriculums which students may follow to move from their school experience to post-secondary education, technical school, and to successful careers. Academic requirements are rigorous and coupled with an emphasis on employability skills and application of their academic learning.

**Academic and Administrative Leadership** - represents the key educational professionals and school board.

**Career Awareness** - activities designed to impart positive attitudes toward work and society, and develop an understanding of employment opportunities in potential careers.

**Career Major** -an identified sequence of academic and technical course work and expanded learning experiences with a specific career focus.

**Career Exploration** - understanding key occupational areas, an assessment of a student's own interest and abilities and gaining experience in making a meaningful career decision.

**Career Cluster** - A grouping of related occupations which share similar skill sets supported by an identified sequence of courses. The present career clusters include: Arts and Humanities; Business and Communication Technology; Engineering and Industrial Technology; and Health and Human Service.

**Career Pathways** - is an initiative to change the way students learn. It is intended to benefit all students, whatever their career goals. Career Pathways presents well-structured curriculums which students may follow to move from their school experience to post-secondary education, technical school, and to successful careers. Academic requirements are rigorous and coupled with an emphasis on employability skills and application of their academic learning.

**Career Pathways K-12 Resource Guide** - provides an overview of the Lehigh County Career Pathways Model and a description of how to address elements of career-related education at appropriate developmental levels for practitioners.

**Career Preparation** - planned sequence of academic and technical courses and expanded learning experiences designed to provide preparation for further study in a career major, or entry into employment.

**Comprehensive Assessment** - a career development plan that involves measuring student interests, abilities, aptitudes, decision-making skills and career interests.

## **GLOSSARY OF TERMS (continued)**

**Critical Factors For Success** - the five factors include:

1. An Integrated K-12 Guided Career Process
2. A Rigorous Curriculum designed for each Career Pathway
3. Planned Professional Development to address Career Pathways
4. An effective partnership with Business, Industry, and Education
5. Academic and Administrative Leadership

**Effective Partnership with Business, Industry and Education** - a community, faculty and staff committed to an effective Career Pathways process through experiences that include field trips, job shadowing, internships, clinical experiences and cooperative work experiences. Utilizing prepared materials that promote Career Pathways as an effective education process for all students.

**K-12 Guided Career Process** - Community, students, faculty and staff participating in planned career activities woven intentionally throughout the curriculum. Activities include career awareness, exploration, preparation, student assessment, monitoring progress, parental awareness, identification of career clusters and majors.

**Rigorous Curriculum** - Planned instruction designed to enable all students to achieve the PA Academic Standards in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Mathematics, Science and Technology and Environment and Ecology that includes a minimum of:

1. Four credits in English
2. Three credits in mathematics including Algebra 1 or 1A (by 9<sup>th</sup> grade),
3. Three credits in science

**Seamless Curriculum** - A non-duplicative sequential course of study that assures a seamless transition from one educational level to another and could lead to a diploma, certificate, associate degree or baccalaureate degree within that course of study.

**Self-Assessment Instrument** - an activity designed to allow the professional staff to individually or collaboratively examine the status of Career Pathways in their local school or in their school district.

**Varied Post-Secondary Options** - opportunities for students following successful completion of a high school program of studies to include: four-year college degree, two-year Associate degree, Tech-Prep articulated program, technical institute, military, or entry-level employment.

**Work-Based Learning Experiences** - include field trips, job shadowing, internships, clinical experiences and cooperative work and learning experiences.