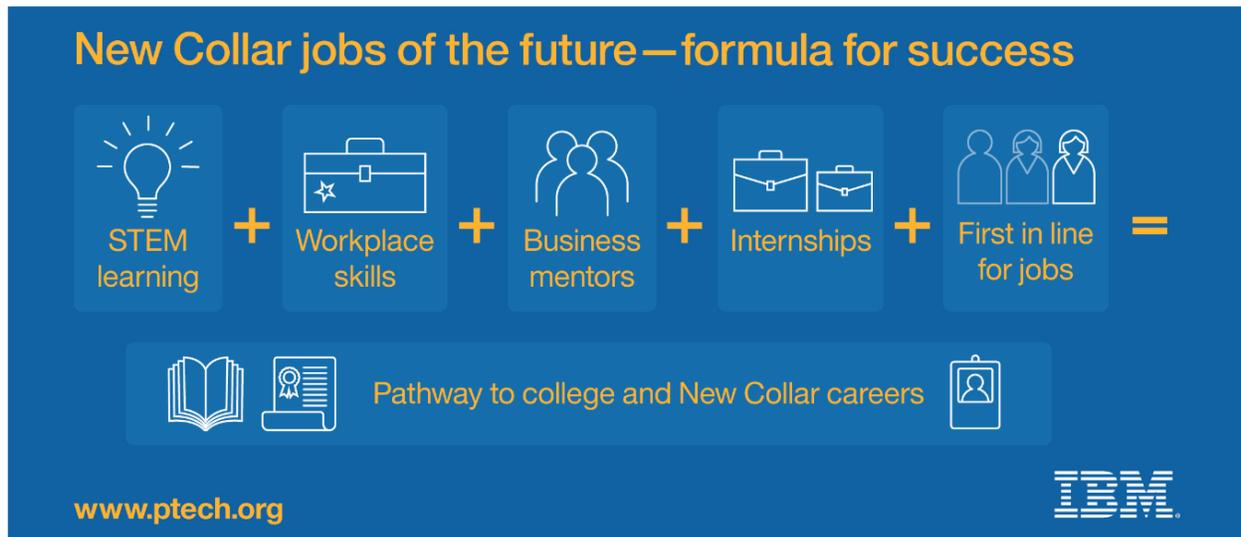


P-TECH 9-14 SCHOOL MODEL



P-TECH, co-developed by IBM, is a new approach to education that blends high school, community college and workplace skills in one. These innovative public schools span grades 9 to 14. Within six-years, students graduate with their high school diplomas and no-cost associate degrees in a STEM discipline, along with the skills and knowledge they need to continue their studies or step into well paying, high potential jobs.

Our nation’s community college completion rates are abysmally low, with only 20% of US students enrolled in a community college completing in three years. Graduation rates among low-income students are significantly lower. A 2015 University of Pennsylvania study found that the percentage of students from the poorest families earning college degrees barely moved in over 40 years – increasing only from 6 percent to 9 percent. Only 6 percent of college graduates from low-income, minority urban schools completed a STEM degree within six years, according to the National Student Clearinghouse.

P-TECH helps close the achievement gap among underserved youth, many first generation college students from low-income families, in rural, suburban, and urban areas. The schools also map workplace skills into how the curriculum is taught, with a focus on fast-growing industries such as cybersecurity, health IT, and mobile programming. The schools, which are open enrollment, operates within existing education budgets.

The model has spread rapidly, with governors, education leaders, and heads of state recognizing this new approach to education that better prepares young people for college and provides new pathways to “new collar” careers – positions in some of the nation’s fastest growing industries.

Policy makers can help prepare more students for college and careers by making programs like P-TECH the rule versus the exception in public education. This past summer, the U.S. House of

Representatives voted to reauthorize bipartisan legislation (Perkins Act) that aligns the nation's career and technical education with successful school designs such as P-TECH, connecting high schools with college and helps close the growing skills gap. Once the legislation passes the Senate and gets signed into law, this will result in specific achievement gains.

A Global Model for Education Reform

- In just six years since it launched, P-TECH is today active in 70 schools across six U.S. states, Australia, and Morocco, serving tens of thousands of U.S. students. By 2018, there will soon be 100 schools around the globe.
- More than 430 large and small companies are partnering with schools across a wide range of sectors, including health IT, advanced manufacturing, and energy technology. Business partners include SAP, Global Foundries, Johns Hopkins University, and Kaiser Permanente.
- IBM serves as lead industry partner for eight schools, and provides thought leadership and training across the entire P-TECH network. To support this work, IBM created a free website (www.ptech.org) with tools and case studies to help school districts, colleges, and businesses establish new P-TECH schools. IBM also offers companies and schools free access to its MentorPlace software, which enables safe and secure online communication between mentors and students, with a focus on projects.

Real Results

- P-TECH schools in Crown Heights, Brooklyn and Chicago's South Side have graduated more than 90 students. More than half of these graduates completed the program early (some received their two-year college degrees before their high school diplomas).
- P-TECH Brooklyn's first cohort, a majority of whom are low-income black or Hispanic students, achieved a graduation rate that is over four times the U.S. on-time average for all community college students.
- **Many graduates** go on to pursue their bachelor's degrees while some have taken positions at IBM in New Collar roles ranging from digital design to data analytics.