

2023 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

Best Practices for Providing
Educational Services in Juvenile
Justice Settings

November 1-3, 2023





Objectives

- Project Background
- Review of Identified Best Practices
- PACTT's Elements of Participation
- Informational Memos & Outcomes

Background

- The project originated in 2008 as a privately operated project as part of Pennsylvania's Models for Change.
- In 2013, at the request of key stakeholders, the project began its transition to the Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services to ensure its sustainability.
- Participation in the program is voluntary and agencies are viewed as partners.

▶ PACTT's Goals

Academic Instruction

Enhance programming; improve coordination with school districts; and promote practices aimed at accelerating remediation, credit recovery, and credit transfer.

Work-Related Services

Develop work readiness and employability soft skills, and create employment opportunities for juvenile justice-involved youth.

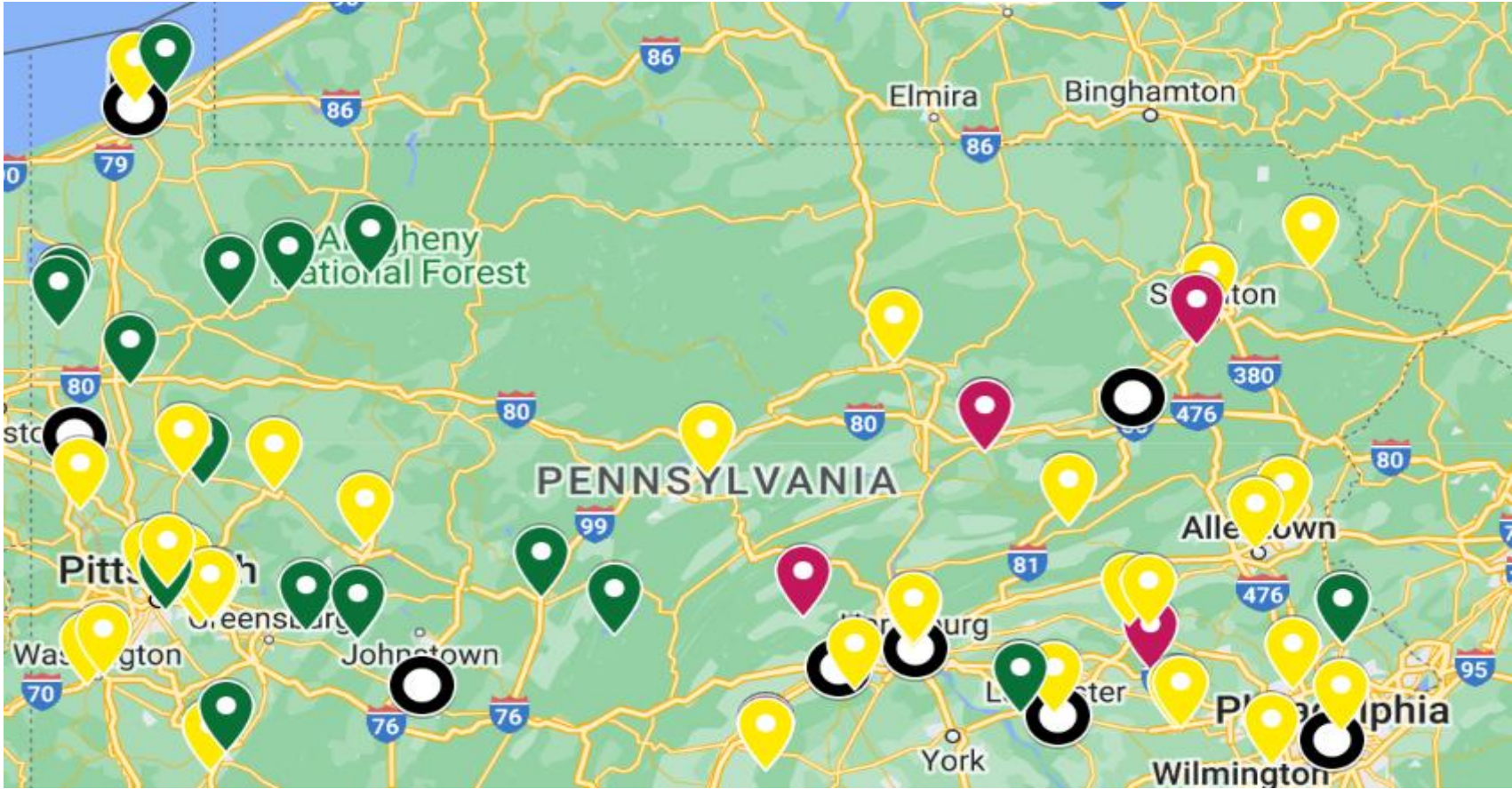
Job Skills Training




Develop career and technical training programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications and certificates.

Executive Steering Committee

The image displays seven logos of Pennsylvania state agencies, arranged in a grid-like fashion within a light gray border. Each logo features the word "pennsylvania" in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font, with the agency name below it. The logos are: 1. Department of Labor & Industry: A blue icon of a stylized building above the text. 2. PCCYFS (Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth and Family Services): A yellow sun icon with a child figure above the text. 3. Juvenile Court Judges' Commission: A blue icon of a scale of justice above the text. 4. Department of Juvenile Justice: A circular blue and yellow seal with a scale of justice and the text "PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE" and "Community Protection". 5. Commission on Crime and Delinquency: A blue and yellow icon of a scale of justice above the text. 6. Department of Education: A blue icon of a graduation cap above the text. 7. Department of Human Services: A blue icon of a family silhouette above the text. 8. Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Office: A blue icon of a scale of justice inside a yellow circle, with the text "Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Office" below it.

▶ Affiliate Locations



-  Community-Based
-  Open Residential
-  Secure Residential

Affiliate List: [PACTT ALLIANCE - Affiliated Programs \(pactt-alliance.org\)](http://pactt-alliance.org)

Research For Action

- Non-profit education research and evaluation organization based in Philadelphia.
- PACTT's research and data partner since 2013
 - Provides support for continued program development
 - Assists with designing and revising PACTT's database
 - Data analysis
- Supporting documents and research
 - Best practice research
 - Informational Memos

Questions



Research for Action's review of existing literature on providing academic instruction, vocational programs, job skills training and work-related services to system-involved youth.

▶ Background on Literature Review

- PACTT contracted with Research for Action (RFA) to review existing literature on providing academic and vocational programs to system-involved youth
- The literature included in this review comes from sources nationally and does not reflect the status of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.
- This review has resulted in 25 areas of best practice across six sections, many of which are already included in the PACTT affiliation criteria:
 1. Program Infrastructure,
 2. Academic Programs
 3. Job Skills Training, Work Related Services, and Employability
 4. Transition Services
 5. Social and Emotional Learning and Mental Health Services, and
 6. Program Evaluation.

Program Infrastructure

Create and Sustain Facility Climate and Safety that Provides Conditions for Learning

Ensure that all Teachers are Certified in their Area of Instruction

Provide Professional Development for all Teachers, including training on Special Education and Transitions

Provide the necessary facility Materials and Equipment

Academic Programs

Align Facility Curricula
with State Academic
Standards

Facilitate Credit Recovery,
Diploma/GED Attainment
Support, and
Postsecondary Education

Provide Academic Services
for Special Education and
English Language Learners

Facilitate Low Student-to-
Teacher Ratios



▶ Job Skills & Work-Related Training/Services & Employability

Work with Students to develop Employability or Soft Skills

Offer opportunities for Workplace Experiences

Provide Job Skills Training that leads to Industry Recognized Certifications

Provide Job Skills Training for Special Education Students and English Language Learners

Offer Youth Career Planning and Employment Guidance and Support

Develop Partnerships with Potential Employers

Align Workplace Experiences with Local Employment Needs

Transition Services

Conduct Initial Student Intake and Assessment

Transfer Student Records Promptly

Communicate & Collaborate with other Organizations

Provide Formal Student Transition Planning

Include Youth & Family or Surrogate in Transition Planning

Develop Facility Transition Coordinator and Team

Social & Emotional Learning & Mental Health Services

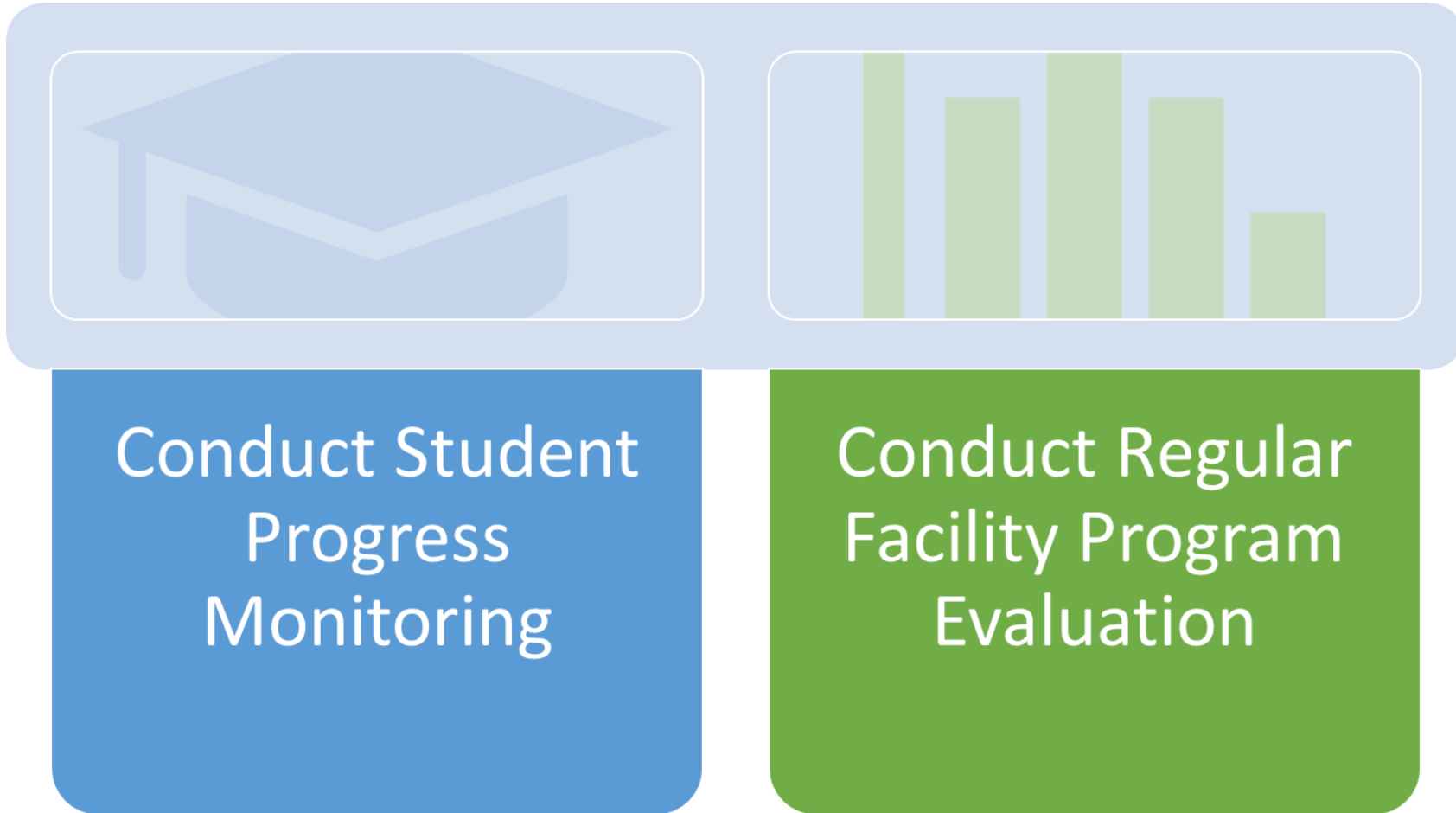


Provide Social
and Emotional
Learning



Facilitate Mental
Health Services
and Substance
Abuse Treatment

Program Evaluation



Questions



PACTT's Elements of Participation

Link: [PACTT ALLIANCE - Learn About PACTT \(pactt-alliance.org\)](https://pactt-alliance.org)

PACTT Affiliation Core Requirements



- ✓ Utilize PACTT's Employability and Soft Skills Manual (ESSM) with all youth, age 14 and older.
- Document ESSM training progress and at the discharge, includes this information as part of the youth's educational record and probation discharge packet.
- ✓ Provide supports to youth that are participating in General Education Development (GED) or High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) preparation, testing, credit recovery, acceleration, and remediation.
- Develop a discharge portfolio for youth that indicates their progress toward completion of competencies.
- For youth having a disability, facilitate their involvement with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).
- ✓ Have an internal quality assurance process to review their PACTT related academic, job skills and/or work-related services.
- ✓ Offer at least one of the following basic certificates: General or industry specific OSHA-10, ServSafe Food Handler, at least one component of MOS; and the complete International Computer Driving License (ICDL).

- ✓ Maintain a curriculum that is aligned with Pennsylvania's Core Academic Standards.
- ✓ Offer opportunities for remediation in numeracy and literacy, credit recovery and/or acceleration.
- Perform transcript audits for youth to prioritize education programming and to determine if any individual needs exist.
- ✓ Conduct educational progress assessments and reassessments to determine academic abilities, progress, and placement into appropriate courses.
- ✓ Ensure the availability of certified Special Education teachers as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE).
- ✓ Provide supports for youth who have special needs in their Individualized Education Plans (IEP).

- ✓ Provide opportunities for youth to obtain a GED or HiSET and connect them with post-secondary training and career opportunities.
- ✓ Request and transmit school records within the timeframe required by PDE.
- ✓ Provide individual case management to support youth's transition to their school.
- Align academic courses and course descriptions with PDE's Pennsylvania Information Management System (PIMS).
- ✓ Whenever possible, provide instruction through low youth-to-teacher ratios.
- ✓ Provide staff with regular professional development.
- ✓ Provide supports for English Language Learners (ELL).

- ✓ Conduct a work skills and interest assessments with all youth between the age of 14-21.
- ✓ Directly offer, or make available through another entity, opportunities for youth to participate in a paid work-based learning experience.
- Ensure that an evaluative process is in place, to include providing youth with regular feedback about their performance
- ✓ Establish connections for youth with employment resources.
- ✓ Establish relationships with employers to provide paid work experience opportunities for youth.
- ✓ In youth's area(s) of interest, identify potential employers in the communities where youth currently live or will be returning if in an out-of-home placement.
- ✓ Review the Department of Labor and Industry's High Priority Occupations with youth, to include those from the region where they will be living.

- ✓ Offer two or more certificates or certifications beyond what the agency offers at the basic level.
- ✓ Offer certificates and certifications that have a logical connection with a High Priority Occupation (HPO) or employment opportunities specific to the community where the youth is or will be living on a full-time basis.
- ✓ Review the Department of Labor and Industry's HPO with youth, to include those from the region where they will be living.
- Have lists of completed industry competencies follow youth at time of discharge that reflect the progress youth has made.
- ✓ Offer vocational, certificate or certification programs that are offered by the agency that are not recognized as a Program of Study (POS) according to PDE's standards yet are taught by certified teachers or qualified individuals that hold the industry-recognized credentials needed to instruct the course.
 - Have an agency administrator review and approve the POS or vocational program's lesson plans.
 - Have instructors sign-off on competency lists demonstrating a youth's proficiency.

Questions



Informational Memos

Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT)



PACTT seeks to develop the academic and career-related competencies of juvenile justice-involved youth by supporting affiliated human service agencies in Pennsylvania. The supports that PACTT provides are designed to help juvenile offenders gain the capacity to graduate from high school, transition to postsecondary schools or training, and/or obtain employment.

Initially established as a privately-operated initiative funded by grants, PACTT transitioned to Pennsylvania's Department of Human Services Bureau of Juvenile Justice Services (BJJS) in 2014. BJJS currently provides funding and staffing for PACTT, which has grown to over 70 affiliated agencies in 2020 from 23 in 2014.

All PACTT affiliates must meet PACTT's core affiliation requirements, including meeting specific PACTT-defined standards for providing youth with academic supports, vocational training, workplace experiences, and opportunities to develop soft skills. Starting in 2019, agencies may affiliate with PACTT in one or more specific areas that represent PACTT goals: academic instruction, job skills training, and work-related services.

Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) 2023 Update



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PACTT Goals	Academic Instruction	Job Skills Training	Work-Related Services
	Enhance programming; improve coordination with school districts; and promote practices aimed at accelerating remediation, credit recovery, and credit transfer.	Develop career and technical training programs that lead to industry-recognized certifications and certificates.	Develop work readiness and employability soft skills, and create employment opportunities for juvenile justice-involved youth.

Pennsylvania Academic and Career/Technical Training Alliance (PACTT) 2022



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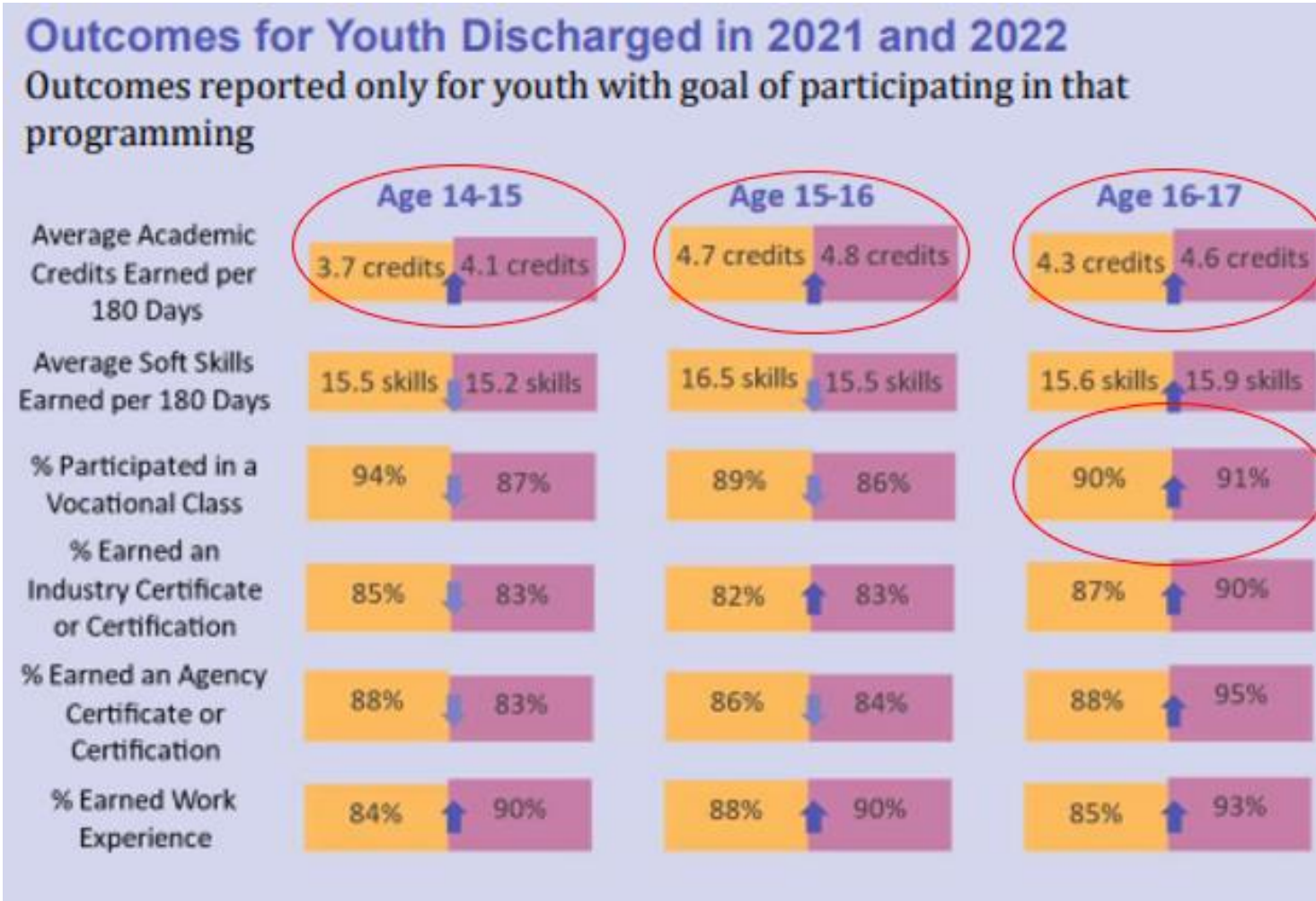
▶ PACTT 2021 and 2022 Affiliate Outcomes



Length of stay: The average length of stay declined from 206 days among youth exiting placements in 2021 to 202 days among those exiting in 2022.

Age when discharged from agency: The average age of youth exiting placements remained the same at 16.9 years old in both 2021 and 2022.

▶ PACTT 2021 and 2022 Affiliate Outcomes

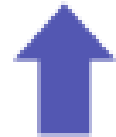


Outcomes: Overall, outcomes improved from 2021 to 2022 in 11 of the 18 measures.

- Outcomes improved across all measures for youth aged 16-17.
- Outcomes declined in 4 out of 6 categories for youth aged 14-15.
- Changes in outcomes were mixed for youth aged 15-16.

▶ PACTT 2021 and 2022 Affiliate Outcomes

High School Diplomas and GEDs (18+) in 2021 and 2022 Among youth with the goal of earning a Diploma or GED, respectively



Diplomas and GEDs:

Among youth with the goal of earning a diploma or GED in 2021 or 2022:

- The percentage of youth who earned a diploma increased 4%.
- The percentage of youth who earned a GED increased 14%.

Questions



Contact Information



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Other Resources

- Accepts & Learns from Criticism
- Active Listening
- Communication Skills
- Conflict Resolution
- Critical Thinker
- Decision Making
- Dependability
- Flexible & Open Minded
- Hard Working
- Interpersonal Skills
- Integrity
- Leadership
- Open-Minded
- Organized
- Problem Solver
- Punctuality
- Positive Attitude
- Professionalism
- Respects Diversity
- Responsible
- Self-Awareness
- Self-Confident
- Self-Control
- Self-Motivated
- Social Skills
- Reading, Writing and Math Skills
- Takes Direction
- Teamwork
- Time Management
- Networking Skills

Resources

- PA CareerZone Career & Interest [Home \(pacareerzone.org\)](http://pacareerzone.org)
- PA CareerZone Job Videos [Video Library \(pacareerzone.org\)](http://pacareerzone.org)
- Education Planner Education EducationPlanner.org
- Careeronestop Interests [Interest Assessment | CareerOneStop](http://CareerOneStop)
- Careeronestop Skills Matcher [Skills Matcher | Careers | CareerOneStop](http://CareerOneStop)
- Careeronestop Career Matcher [Explore new career options and expand your job search | mySkills myFuture | CareerOneStop](http://CareerOneStop)
- Careeronestop Career Planning [Set Career Goals | Explore Careers | CareerOneStop](http://CareerOneStop)
- O*NET Interest Profiler [O*NET Interest Profiler at My Next Move](http://MyNextMove)
- O*NET Resource Center <https://www.onetcenter.org/>
- SkillUp PA Skills & Training [PA CareerLink® | SkillUp[™] PA](http://SkillUpPA)
- ASVAB Career Exploration [What career is right for me? | ASVAB Career Exploration Program \(asvabprogram.com\)](http://asvabprogram.com)
- PA Dept. of Labor High Priority Occupations [High Priority Occupations \(HPOs\)](http://HighPriorityOccupations)

Resources

- Credential Finder Industry Credentials [Credential Finder](#)
- Department of Education Industry Credentials [Industry-Recognized Credentials for Career and Technical Education Programs \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Careeronestop Credential Finder [Certification Finder Help Page | CareerOneStop](#)
- Careeronestop Credential Finder [Find Certifications Using the Certification Finder | CareerOneStop](#)
- Department of Education College Planning [College Planning \(pa.gov\)](#)
- College Board College Resources [College Board - SAT, AP, College Search and Admission Tools](#)
- Careeronestop Resume Writing [Introduction | Resume Guide | CareerOneStop](#)
- PA CareerLink Apprenticeships [PA CareerLink® | Registered Apprenticeship](#)
- Workforce GPS Financial Literacy [WorkforceGPS - Financial Literacy Education](#)
- FDIC Financial Literacy [FDIC Catalog - Home Page](#)
- Department of Labor PA Career Guide [Career Guide \(pa.gov\)](#)
- Youth.Gov Employment [Employment | Youth.gov](#)