

The district has enlisted the help of strong community partners including the Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board (CMWIB) and the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce to secure resources that promote manufacturing options for students. During 2017 the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has funded \$132,500 in Career and Technical Education Partnership grants to prepare youth for skilled careers in manufacturing jobs that hold the promise of a lifelong career. An additional \$51,602 award was targeted to students of the Worcester Public Schools Adult Learning Center to prepare adults for skilled careers in Manufacturing, drawing on the existing Chapter 74 Machine Technology program at the Worcester Technical High School. Industry partners for these initiatives have included Metso Flow Control and Primetals Technology USA.

In September 2017, the district was the lead applicant on an Innovation Pathways Preliminary Designation application to prepare our students in sectors that have been identified as offering long term careers in industry jobs that pay a living wage: Manufacturing; Information; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services and Health Care and Social Assistance. Our course offerings will be aligned with a technical pathway that will accelerate each individual's entry into the world of work and/or post-secondary education. Additionally, we will offer out of school activities and the opportunity for college-level work, either through dual enrollment activities and/or Advanced Placement courses. Our partners in this initiative are the Central Massachusetts Workforce Investment Board, Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce and Quinsigamond Community College.

During this school year, the district is also expanding its participation with Project Lead the Way in the Doherty quadrant, increasing career awareness in earlier grades and building on the existing partnership with Doherty High School's Engineering technology Academy.