

# Delaware PIPEline Project for Equity: Building Student Leadership



## Work-Based-Learning Program for CTE Students

### A New Paid WBL Leadership Initiative to Support Students with Disabilities

We are recruiting CTE student leaders for an opportunity to support Delaware initiatives for equity and inclusion for students with disabilities for transition and career success! In Spring, 2025, the special Student Leadership PIPEline Program will offer leadership and equity training for 25-30 students who want to research, collaborate, and share ideas for innovations that will increase access, participation, and completion for students with IEPs in CTE pathways. This state-level program will give students credit in their WBL courses, helping their districts meet accountability requirements and improve their career pathways. Students will also have a chance to offer expert testimony to state teams and coalitions looking at equity issues for SWD and CTE.

**DELAWARE EDUCATORS AND ADMINISTRATORS:** *We believe student insights are vital to the success of our work in creating opportunities in CTE for all Delaware students, and particularly for underrepresented students with disabilities. Please join us in making student voices heard for equity!*

**STUDENTS:** *If you want to nominate yourself or help organize a team at your school, contact us! We will help you however we can.*

Here is a list of considerations and expectations as you consider this invitation:

1. Students will earn up to \$425 each for their WBL participation, paid at the end of the semester. As this is a WBL experience, we will take attendance and pro-rate their pay by participation. We understand that students may not be able to attend every event. Students who attend all events and demonstrate significant leadership initiative can receive a \$100 bonus at the end of the experience. The program will qualify for WBL course credit for all participants registered for that credit.
2. We are recruiting 5 teams of 4-6 students each, with each team located in one school or one district where they can easily meet together for research, planning, and exploration. Students who participate in a state coalition like CTSOs or other leadership programs are also welcome to form a team, and need not come from the same district as long as we can coordinate team meetings. Students should expect to be excused from class occasionally, as part of their WBL expectations and credits.
3. PIPEline trainers will be traveling to specific schools (or a pre-arranged meeting place) for small group trainings. We will also gather all of the teams together in three half-day trainings between January and May of 2025. The semester-long program will culminate in a Showcase presentation in May, when students will present their findings and recommendations. Students will also be invited to share their insights with state teams.
4. This program's curriculum is based on the DE PIPEline to Career Success for Students with

Disabilities, a state-wide collaboration with multiple districts since 2018. ([Find out more here.](#)) The process of identifying gaps and root causes for exclusion and implementing aligned equity initiatives has been adapted to be student-friendly and to build leadership and collaboration skills. However, the goals remain the same: to increase enrollment and participation of SWD in CTE career pathways, WBL experiences, and college and career advancement opportunities. By increasing student voice in state and district accountability, we also hope to increase successful high school career certification and graduation that prepares our SWD for further training and in-demand job placement after high school.

5. We want to make sure that students with IEPs who are participating in Delaware career pathways, particularly CTE/STEM programs, make up the *majority* of our teams. We have had success working with a range of students with disabilities, from physical to intellectual. However, any student who wants to explore equity leadership in CTE is welcome to join us!
6. Each team should have a supervisor/mentor who will liaison with the PIPEline trainers, and organize transportation, meeting rooms, and other local arrangements, and attend large-group trainings with their teams. *Mentors will be paid a stipend of \$400 each for their service.*

***Please let us know if you have any questions –***

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