

## SURVEY RESULTS

# Career and Technical Education Student Interest Survey

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## Contents

<b>LIST OF TABLES.....</b>	<b>II</b>
<b>I. INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>II. SAMPLE AND PARTICIPATION.....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>III. PROGRAM AND SCHOOL STRUCTURE PREFERENCES .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IV. CURRENTLY EMPLOYED STUDENTS.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>V. STUDENTS INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT .....</b>	<b>9</b>

## List of Tables

TABLE 1–SURVEY PARTICIPATION BY SCHOOL AND GRADE .....	2
TABLE 2–PREFERRED CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS .....	3
TABLE 3–INTEREST IN SCHOOL-WORK HYBRID .....	3
TABLE 4–INTEREST IN SUMMER SCHOOL FOR ORIGINAL CREDIT .....	4
TABLE 5–INTEREST IN EVENING SCHOOL FOR ORIGINAL CREDIT .....	4
TABLE 6–EXPECTED USE OF FREE TIME .....	4
TABLE 7–TYPES OF JOBS HELD BY RESPONDENTS DURING 2018 .....	5
TABLE 8–BUSINESS OWNERSHIP .....	5
TABLE 9–HOW STUDENTS FOUND THEIR JOBS .....	6
TABLE 10–LENGTH OF EMPLOYMENT .....	6
TABLE 11–HOURS WORKED PER WEEK .....	6
TABLE 12–TIMES DURING THE WEEK OR YEAR THAT STUDENTS WORK .....	7
TABLE 13–REASONS STUDENTS WORK .....	7
TABLE 14–WORK AND SCHOOL BALANCE .....	7
TABLE 15–HOW STUDENTS COMMUTE TO AND FROM WORK .....	7
TABLE 16–LENGTH OF COMMUTE .....	8
TABLE 17–EMPLOYMENT ASPIRATION .....	9
TABLE 18–PREFERRED JOB TYPE .....	9
TABLE 19–REASONS FOR WANTING A JOB .....	10
TABLE 20–PREFERRED HOURS PER WEEK .....	10
TABLE 21–PREFERRED TIMES TO WORK DURING THE WEEK AND YEAR .....	10

## I. INTRODUCTION

*To provide a great education that empowers all students and contributes to thriving communities.*

--Mission Statement, Prince George's County Public Schools

With a mission to provide all students with an education that empowers them to pursue their goals, Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) strives to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to ensure that those pursuits are not in vain. Thus, it is paramount that PGCPS afford students every opportunity to participate in educational programs that meet their needs, which means being innovative in how we deliver education services to our diverse student body. One innovation that is being considered is an "off-hours" Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that may be piloted in the northern part of the district beginning in the 2020 school year.

To gauge the extent to which such a program might be of interest to PGCPS students in the northern part of the county, the Office of Career and Technical Education sought support from the Office of Research and Evaluation to assist in developing a survey to administer to current tenth and eleventh grade students enrolled in seven high schools in northern Prince George's County. This report reflects the responses received from survey participants.

## II. SAMPLE AND PARTICIPATION

All students enrolled in tenth or eleventh grade in seven high schools in northern Prince George’s County were eligible to participate in the survey. Schools were asked to provide a point of contact who would be responsible for administering the survey to the students. To access the survey items, students were required to enter their nine-digit student identification numbers. Table 1 presents the participation rates overall, and by school and grade level. Overall, DuVal High School had the highest rate of participation with nearly 59%, which includes more than 65% of the tenth grade class and nearly 52% of the eleventh graders. See Table 1.

**Table 1–Survey Participation by School and Grade**

	Full Sample			Grade 10			Grade 11		
	Total	# of Responses	Response Rate	Total	# of Responses	Response Rate	Total	# of Responses	Response Rate
Bladensburg HS	932	256	27.5%	466	218	46.8%	466	38	8.2%
DuVal HS	949	558	58.8%	496	324	65.3%	453	234	51.7%
Eleanor Roosevelt HS	1,251	398	31.8%	633	259	40.9%	618	139	22.5%
High Point HS	1,296	664	51.2%	659	299	45.4%	637	365	57.3%
Laurel HS	886	4	0.5%	455	4	0.9%	431	0	0.0%
Northwestern HS	1,133	178	15.7%	622	114	18.3%	511	64	12.5%
Parkdale HS	1,069	576	53.9%	597	408	68.3%	472	168	35.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,516</b>	<b>2,634</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>3,928</b>	<b>1,626</b>	<b>41.4%</b>	<b>3,588</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>28.1%</b>

### III. PROGRAM AND SCHOOL STRUCTURE PREFERENCES

The pilot for the off-hours CTE program is being considered for SY2020. With limited lead time, it was determined that students should indicate their preferences from a list of programs that could be feasibly implemented given the available facilities and staffing. Table 2 presents the program types that may be offered and the number and percent of students who indicated a preference. Nearly 37% of the 2,634 students who responded to the survey indicated that they were interested in the Health and Bio-sciences program. Fifteen percent of respondents said they were not sure, while about 9% indicated that they were not interested in participating in any of the possible program choices. See Table 2.

**Table 2—Preferred Career and Technical Education Programs**

PROGRAM TYPE	Number of students (N = 2,634)	Percent of Respondents
Health and Bio-sciences (Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Assistant)	973	36.9
Culinary arts/Food service	612	23.2
Consumer Services, Hospitality and Tourism	523	19.9
Cosmetology	487	18.5
Building Trades (electrical and carpentry)	467	17.7
I'm not sure	397	15.1
None of these	239	9.1
Other	539	20.5

Tables 3 through 6 display student responses to items related to their interest in different school configurations with time to pursue paid employment.

**Table 3—Interest in School-Work Hybrid**

How interested would you be in a program where you could learn job skills in school, work part-time using those skills, and get paid?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Not interested at all	64	2.8
Somewhat interested	706	30.9
Very interested	1,399	61.2
Not sure	116	5.1
Total	2,285	100.0

**Table 4—Interest in summer school for original credit**

Please indicate the extent to which you would be interested in attending high school in the summer for original course credit, not credit recovery.	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Not interested at all	947	41.4
I'd consider it	1,134	49.6
Sign me up	204	8.9
Total	2,285	100.0

**Table 5—Interest in evening school for original credit**

Please indicate the extent to which you would be interested in attending high school in the evening.	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Not interested at all	953	41.7
I'd consider it	1,148	50.2
Sign me up	185	8.1
Total	2,286	100.0

**Table 6—Expected use of free time**

If you attended high school in the evening, please indicate how you expect to spend most of your time during regular school hours:	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Work full-time.	348	15.6
Work part-time.	1,132	50.8
Get work experience in my chosen field as an intern/apprentice for little or no pay.	294	13.2
Care for family members at home (e.g., watch younger relatives or care for elderly relatives)	128	5.7
Do household chores (cooking, cleaning, yard work, etc.)	140	6.3
Sleep late/stay home/hang out	185	8.3
Total	2,227	100.0

## IV. CURRENTLY EMPLOYED STUDENTS

Among the respondents, 588 or 22.6% indicated that they had been employed in a paying job at some point during the past 12 months. The data presented in Tables 7 through 16 represent responses from this subset of participants.

**Table 7—Types of jobs held by respondents during 2018**

What kind of job do you have? (Type of industry)	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Food service (including cook, food prep, fast-food, catering, food server, restaurant host/hostess, etc.)	200	36.6
Building trades (including construction, contractor, painting, electrical, plumbing, lawn care, etc.)	75	13.7
Childcare (including baby-sitter, daycare assistant, before/after-school care, etc.)	54	9.9
Retail	39	7.1
Office/Administrative (including clerical, IT, tele-marketing, customer service, etc.)	34	6.2
Other	145	26.5
Total	547	100.0

**Table 8—Business Ownership**

Is this a family business?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
YES	106	19.4
NO	441	80.6
Total	547	100.0



**Table 9—How students found their jobs**

How did you get your job?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Through my family	194	35.5
Applied online	145	26.6
Applied in person	89	16.3
Through a friend	60	11.0
Through my school	35	6.4
Other	23	4.2
TOTAL	546	100.0

**Table 10—Length of Employment**

How long have you been there?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
1 month or less	120	22.0
Between 1 and 6 months	266	48.8
Between 6 months and 1 year	84	15.4
Between 1 and 2 years	40	7.3
More than 2 years	35	6.4
Total	545	100.0

**Table 11—Hours worked per week**

How many hours per week do you work?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Fewer than 5 hours	104	19.0
Between 5 and 10 hours	193	35.2
Between 10 and 20 hours	132	24.1
Between 20 and 30 hours	71	13.0
More than 30 hours	48	8.8
Total	548	100.0

**Table 12–Times during the week or year that students work**

When do you work?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Afterschool	223	37.9
Weekends	293	49.8
Summer	331	56.3

**Table 13–Reasons students work**

Do you work because...	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
You need to help support your family	183	31.1
You like to work	230	39.1
You want to make your own money to spend	475	80.8

**Table 14–Work and school balance**

	Total N	YES		NO	
		N	%	N	%
Do you want to work more hours?	548	394	71.9	154	28.1
Do your job commitments interfere with school?	547	88	16.1	459	83.9
Do your school commitments interfere with your job?	548	123	22.4	425	77.6

**Table 15–How students commute to and from work**

How do you get to your job most days?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Have a family member drive me	265	48.3
Use public transportation	82	14.9
Use a car service (e.g., Uber, Lyft)	54	9.8
Drive myself	53	9.7
Ride with a friend/co-worker	49	8.9
Other (please specify)	46	8.4
Total	548	100.0

**Table 16–Length of commute**

How long does it take you to get to work most days?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Less than 15 minutes	266	48.5
15 – 30 minutes	186	33.9
30 – 45 minutes	57	10.4
More than 45 minutes	40	7.3
Total	549	100.0

## V. STUDENTS INTERESTED IN EMPLOYMENT

More than three-fourths of respondents indicated that they had not been employed in a paying job at any time over the past 12 months. Among the approximately 2,000 students who indicated they hadn't had a job, 93.2% said they would like to have a job. The data contained in Tables 17 to 21 represent the responses of this subset of students.

**Table 17–Employment aspiration**

Would you like to have a paying job?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
YES	1,880	93.2
NO	77	3.8
No Response	61	3.0
TOTAL	2,018	100.0

**Table 18–Preferred job type**

What kind of job would you like to have? (Type of industry)	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Food service (including cook, food prep, fast-food, catering, food server, restaurant host/hostess, etc.)	474	25.3
Childcare (including baby-sitter, daycare assistant, before/after-school care, etc.)	382	20.4
Retail	378	20.2
Office/Administrative (including clerical, IT, tele-marketing, customer service, etc.)	273	14.6
Building trades (including construction, contractor, painting, electrical, plumbing, lawn care, etc.)	191	10.2
Other (please specify)	173	9.2
Total	1,871	100.0

**Table 19—Reasons for wanting a job**

Would you like to have a paying job because...	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
You need to help support your family	967	51.4
You like to work	623	33.1
You want to make your own money to spend	1,628	86.6

**Table 20—Preferred hours per week**

How many hours per week would like to you work?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Fewer than 5 hours	210	11.2
Between 5 and 10 hours	749	40.0
Between 10 and 20 hours	487	26.0
Between 20 and 30 hours	305	16.3
More than 30 hours	123	6.6
Total	1,874	100.0

**Table 21—Preferred times to work during the week and year**

When would you like to work?	Number of students	Percent of Respondents
Afterschool	1,096	58.3
Weekends	1,185	63.0
Summer	1,423	75.7