

From: Commissioner Bill Valentine
To: [Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education](#)
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Allegany County's CTE program:

Students can earn as they learn through program

Board of Education discusses Apprenticeship Maryland

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CUMBERLAND — Local businesses that want skilled and reliable workers will soon have the chance to partner with the Allegany County Public Schools and other organizations in a new program that will allow students to collect a paycheck while being trained for a job.

The school board on Tuesday discussed the Apprenticeship Maryland — Learning While Earning program that combines classroom instruction and supervised, paid, work-based training.

Under the program, students in 11th or 12th grades could earn four high school credits that fulfill graduation requirements under the Career, Technology and Education pathway.

Additionally, students would have the ability to establish a potential career prior to exiting high school and earn articulated college credits.

“The employers are lining up,” said Brandon Butler, county administrator, of potential employers

including the city of Cumberland and Western Maryland Health System. “That just shows the need ... businesses are invested in the community.”

Butler two years ago, while working at the state Department of Labor, implemented a similar program in Washington and Frederick counties.

Students in that pilot program “became invaluable” to the employers, he said.

Requirements of the program include:

- Employers must be on an approved list.
- Participants and the school system must identify a coordinator and monitor student progress.

“It’s employer-driven,” Butler said of the program.

Allegany College of Maryland would serve on a program advisory committee and the county would partner in all aspects of program development.

“We are trying to develop a pipeline for students of Allegany County to provide them with a career path in Allegany County,” said Candy Canan, principal of the Center for Career and Technical Education, and supervisor of the CTE program.

School Superintendent David Cox thanked the people who worked on the project.

“This doesn’t happen without a lot of hard work,” he said.