



## Factsheet for Principal Candidates February 2015

*For school leaders interested in joining a learning community focused on high student achievement*

### Principal Position Fast Facts

- Formerly Steel Center Area Vocational Technical School
- Established: August 1964
- Grade Configuration: 10-12
- Current Enrollment: 638
- CTE Programs: 15 (planned addition of 16th program for 2015-2016)
- Faculty: 23
- Support Staff: 19
- Act 93 Employees: 4
- Reports directly to Executive Director
- Multiple adult education programs operated by Director of Workforce Development
- Joined Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program through PDE in 2012-2013
- Institutional Memberships: PACTA, PSBA, and ASCD
- Individual Membership: ACTE and PA-ACTE
- Leadership Philosophy: based on PA Core and Corollary Standards and "Creating Magic" framework by Lee Cockerell

### Remaking Steel Center: Structure and Process

Beginning in January of 2012, Steel Center has participated in massive reform efforts that have changed the way the school operates and produced significant, measurable, and positive results. Along with numerous procedural and operational changes, some of the research-based strategies and resources used were made possible through the PDE Technical Assistance Program. They include: SREB Technical Centers That Work, MAX Teaching, NOCTI, National Research Center for CTE, PA Distinguished School Leaders, and Pennsylvania Inspired Leadership training. This work has fostered a new sense of purpose and direction at Steel Center and created improvements including:

- Modifications to the instructional schedule.
- Revisions to the curriculum and instruction model.
- Using formative assessment (NOCTI pre-test) to guide instruction.
- Integration of English/Language Arts and Mathematics CORE Content through an embedded coaching program.
- Revisions to the process for student selection into CTE programs.
- A revised process for the delivery of Special Education services.
- Increased professional development opportunities for faculty and staff.
- A revised student code of conduct.
- Revised guidance counseling and work-based learning programs.
- Adopting shared leadership model of decision making.
- Purposeful effort to strengthen Career & Technical Student Organizations.



## Some outcomes from the first three years of reform

- The number of students completing a CTE program of study as a “Concentrator” has increased by 12%.
- The number of students that have met proficiency requirements on the state end of program assessment (NOCTI) has increased by 23%.
- The number of students who earn a Pennsylvania Skills Certificates risen by 10%.
- The number of student discipline referrals has been reduced by 84%, down to 149 in 2013-2014.
- Student enrollment increased by 9% despite the reduction of four CTE programs for 2012-2013.



## Some of what the future holds

- Continued revisions of curriculum development process.
- Refining the use of research-based instructional strategies.
- Continued efforts to refine educator/principal effectiveness process.
- PDE site visit during the 2015-2016 school year for chapter 339 Approved Program Evaluation.
- Revisions to the Professional Development and Induction Plans.
- Implementing strategies to improve Occupational Advisory Committees.
- Continued support for newer faculty/staff (40% of employees have joined Steel Center since January of 2012).
- Implementation of strategies to attain higher level of non-traditional program participation and completion in CTE programs.

## Member School Districts

Baldwin-Whitehall ■ Bethel Park ■ Brentwood Borough ■ Clairton City  
Duquesne ■ Elizabeth Forward ■ South Allegheny ■ South Park  
Steel Valley ■ West Jefferson Hills ■ West Mifflin Area