

employers that indicates that YOU are the person with the attitude and work ethic they want.

Your ***School Counts! in the Oil Region***

Employability Certificate can be used as part of your application for a part-time position during high school or as part of a career portfolio. You may also include your certificate in applications for college and other post-secondary education opportunities.

Take the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region***

Employability Certificate with you when you go to a job interview (either a part-time job during school or a full-time job after graduation) to show your potential employer that you have earned the certificate. The certificate will tell employers that you have the skills they want! Present your certificate with pride every time you apply for a job!

<https://www.venangochamber.org/invest/school-counts-in-the-oil-region/>



Apply for a
School Counts! in the Oil Region
Employability Certificate
TODAY!

School Counts! in the Oil Region is an initiative that encourages employers to use high school performance records as one of the criteria used to evaluate high school job applicants. The program also demonstrates the importance of building a strong work ethic in high school, as it will directly affect your future employment.

The program was originally adapted from the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce's ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** program by the Tri-Chamber Foundation, a business-education partnership centered in Columbia and Montour counties in 2003. Since then, it has gone regional and is now offered to students and businesses throughout Central Pennsylvania.

For more information on the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** program, please contact:

Deb Lutz

**Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry
and Tourism**
(814) 677-3152 ext. 115
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or

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Venango Area Chamber of Commerce
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Cranberry Area Junior-Senior High School



One Education Drive
Seneca, PA 16346
(814) 676-8504

Our Mission

Cranberry Area School District's purpose, in partnership with our community, is to engage, educate and inspire our students to pursue their greatest potential.

SCHOOL *counts!* in the Oil Region

*So, I'm late for school.
Who cares?*

*So, my grades are low.
Who cares?*

*I'm really smart, so what if I'm
absent a lot. Who cares?*

*I'm not going to college,
so who cares about
what I do in school?*

Answer:
**YOUR FUTURE
EMPLOYER DOES!**

*Performance in school is one
factor that can predict how well
you will do in a job.*

SCHOOL *counts!* in the Oil Region

The Cranberry Area School District, in conjunction with area businesses, The Oil Region Alliance, and the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce have developed the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** Employability Certificate and its application process to help students compete effectively for employment. Cranberry Area School District administrators and staff work hard to prepare students to be ready to meet the high standards expected of them in their futures. Now we are ready to provide a process that will prepare our students for employment and also provide evidence that they have met the standards for earning an employability certificate. It is our hope that in working to earn this certificate, students will begin to realize the importance of dependability, responsibility, and trust—the non-tangible but critical skills necessary in today’s world of work.

What Is an Employability Certificate?

An employability certificate is a document that certifies that a student has met specific academic and workplace standards. The ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** Employability Certificate indicates that you have met the criteria that has been developed jointly by our schools and the local business community. It is recognized throughout Venango County and will be issued to students who apply and successfully meet the criteria.

The Employability Certificate can help prove to employers that you are a hard-working student. By meeting the five criteria of the ***School Counts in the Oil Region!*** program, you can become a ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** student. There are five certificates that you can earn during high school—one for each year, Grades 9-12. You will be issued an Employability Certificate of achievement each year in high school that you meet the criteria. If you earn all four of the annual certificates, you will also earn the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** Master Certificate.

Who Is Eligible To Apply For a *School Counts! in the Oil Region* Employability Certificate?

All students in Grades 9 through 12 may apply for a ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** Employability Certificate.

Requirements for Earning a *School Counts! in the Oil Region* Employability Certificate:

- ◆ **Obtain a grade of “C” or better in every course.**
- ◆ **Achieve a 95% attendance rate and punctuality record.**

A student may have up to nine absences and five tardies and still be eligible for a certificate. The total number of absences will include anytime the student is physically not in the building, which includes excused and unexcused absences or any other release time (with the exception of days missed due to a death in the family, authorized school trips, college visits, sports, court hearings, or medical excuses).
- ◆ **Complete high school in eight consecutive semesters (to earn a Master Certificate).**

A special needs student whose IEP demands more than four years of high school also

meets this criteria. Any student who drops out of school for a period of time or repeats a grade level is ineligible to earn a certificate.

- ◆ **Take more than the minimum graduation requirements.**

Summer school can provide students with the opportunity to make up credits, but not absences or grades.
- ◆ **Demonstrate positive behavior, including no suspensions.**
- ◆ **Pass random drug tests.**

The program requires no extra time commitment on your part. Just keep your grades up, come to school every day and arrive on time. Don’t load up on study halls; take academic courses that will challenge you. The high school years are very important—make the most of them by participating in the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** program!

How Do I Apply?

1. Read and understand the requirements for earning a ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** Employability Certificate, and commit yourself to the effort it will take to meet those requirements.
2. Complete the Student Commitment and Application Form, and return it to the Student Service Center or your guidance counselor.
3. Meet or exceed the program requirements to earn your Employability Certificate.

I’ve Earned an Employability Certificate; Now What?

The Employability Certificate sends two important messages—one to you, congratulating you on your attitude and work ethics, and one to

To receive a *School Counts! in the Oil Region* Employability Certificate, a student must meet all listed criteria:

Students must have an end of the year letter grade of “C” or better in every subject. Attendance and punctuality rates are as follows: a student may have up to nine absences and five tardies and still be eligible for a certificate. The absentee rate is calculated on a 180-day school year; therefore, students who miss more than nine days of school (or 5% of 180 days) for any reason during a single academic year, are not eligible for a ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** certificate. The total number of absences should include anytime the student is physically not in the building (with the exception of authorized school trips), which includes excused and unexcused absences, or any other release time. Students are expected to maintain positive behavior with no suspensions. Students should follow the attendance regulations printed in the annual Student Handbook.

Tardies would follow the same rules, using the district’s definition “tardy” for determining eligibility. More than five “tardies” received in a single school year makes a student ineligible for the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** certificate. Since attendance and tardies are determined in total, if a student has both absent days and tardies, the numbers should be added to determine eligibility. For example, nine days absent and five times late during any one school year is within the guidelines.

Any student who is “on time and on target to graduate” meets this criteria. Most students are expected to complete high school in eight consecutive semesters with no dropping out. However, a special needs student whose IEP demands more than four years of high school also meets this criteria. Any student who has repeated a grade level in high school is ineligible for the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** program. Students must pass random drug tests administered by the school.

Most school districts require students to earn a higher number of courses required for graduation. To meet this criteria, a student must exceed, or be scheduling enough courses to exceed each school’s minimum requirement. Note: Summer school can provide students with the opportunity to make up credits, but not absences or grades. For more information visit our website at www.pct.edu/k12/schoolcounts, or the local website at www.venangochamber.org/school-counts-in-the-oil-region.



Student Application and Commitment Form

YES! I want to participate in the ***School Counts! in the Oil Region*** program.

Student Name: _____

Homeroom Number: _____ Grade: _____ School Year: _____

Guidance Counselor: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

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