

REPORT: Erie County Community College Plan

Overview

The review of the Erie County Community College is based primarily on the requirements for a college plan as found in Article XIX-A of the Public School Code. This report is organized around each of the key elements required by the School Code and includes a discussion of the evidence provided in the Erie college plan and an analysis of whether the college plan meets the requirement. It should be noted that the School Code requires the State Board of Education to determine that the local sponsor meets the first three elements discussed in this report to approve the college plan.

The County submitted their original college plan to the Board in July 2017. A revision was submitted in response to an inquiry from the Subcommittee assembled to review the Erie County Community College plan in early 2018. Also in 2018, a third and final submission of the plan was provided to PDE in response to a series of inquiries made by PDE directly to the County. In an effort to maintain clarity throughout this analysis of the plan, the original submission will be identified as the “College Plan,” the first revision submitted in response to the Subcommittee letter will be identified as “Revision 1” and the final response submitted to PDE will be referred to as “Revision 2.”

Required Element A

24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d)

“No plan for the establishment of a community college shall be approved unless the State Board of Education determines that the local sponsor has a population of a sufficient number to assure a sustained minimum enrollment...”

Evidence:

Chapter two of the College Plan breaks out the municipalities within Erie County and identifies the population and age breakdown, population density, trends, and forecast through 2030 for each area. Chapter three discusses the population of Erie County in relation to the employment base, gross metro product, and per capita income.

The plan includes a table in chapter two that compares Erie County to the rest of the nation in terms of educational attainment of its citizens. There is only one category where Erie surpasses the nation in educational attainment and that is in percentage of residents whose highest educational achievement is a high school diploma. Additionally, enrollment projections for the county’s school districts show level enrollment with a potential for a slight decline over the next 10 years.

Analysis:

The adult population of Erie County in 2016 exceeded the adult populations of Beaver, Butler, and Cambria Counties which support successful community colleges. The county

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of Northampton has an adult population that is only 12,000 people larger than Erie County which supports a successful college.

Table 1: Population Comparison to Other Counties with Community Colleges		
County	2016 Estimated Adult Population (18-65)	Community College FTE Enrollment*
Erie	173,887	N/A
Beaver	102,469	1,900
Butler	115,512	3,143
Cambria	83,029	1,526
Northampton	186,424	7,985

*2017-18 Annualized FTE enrollment

There are several other postsecondary options in the county which serve to reduce the college-going population available for the community college. However, there are still a significant number of *potential students* that are not pursuing postsecondary education. Based on the data presented in the plan, Erie County has a large number of adults and recent high school graduates who would be potential students for the community college who are not otherwise being served.

There is no standard method for projecting the enrollment of a new college. The original community college application guidelines, published in 1965, included three methods for estimating college enrollment for a new community college. Attachment 1 outlines those three methods and the outcomes when applied to data for Erie County. The methods result in varying enrollment numbers between 263 and 3,239 students.

To determine if the estimates outlined in Attachment 1 are valid, it is helpful to compare the results to the enrollment at community colleges in the counties identified above where successful community colleges are operational.

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County	Credit FTE Enrollment
Erie—Projection 1	1,739 to 2,318
Erie—Projection 2	3,093
Erie—Projection 3	263
Beaver	2,064
Butler	2,639
Cambria	1,484
Northampton	7,558

2015-16 Annualized FTE enrollment

Based on the comparison to other smaller and similarly sized counties with community colleges, it is reasonable to expect that projection 1 (1,751 FTE to 2,318 FTE) may be a reasonable estimate for Erie County. However, full-time equivalent enrollments at existing Pennsylvania community colleges has declined by about 15 percent over the past five years. This may in part be caused by recovery from the 2008 recession. Community college enrollment tends to be counter-cyclical to the economy. During times of economic stress, the opportunity cost of higher education decreases, and students enroll in community colleges hoping to enhance their job prospects. As the economy improves individuals who had enrolled will start to move back into the workforce, causing a decline in student enrollment. Another factor that is impacting enrollment is the declining number of high school students and graduates. This will be a factor that will influence enrollment for at least the next decade.

Determination:

The population data and projection of student enrollment in the College Plan and various revisions provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the Plan meets the Legislative requirement.

Required Element B

24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d)

“...has sufficient wealth to financially support such college...”

Evidence:

Erie County has stated that the current and projected gaming fund revenue combined with a pledged \$3.7 million donation from the Community Foundation will be sufficient to

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fund the college for the first five years of operation. The College Plan submitted in June 2017, called for the college to receive \$2.95 million per year from the existing gaming revenue. This was scheduled to be increased in 2022 by an additional \$1 million.

Revision 1 included a new schedule of estimated revenue and expenditures from the unrestricted gaming fund. The schedule shows Erie County providing \$3,969,250 to the community college as local share expenditure beginning in 2019. Revision 2 further refined the local share as shown in the local funding projections table below.

Expenditure	Year 0	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Unrestricted Gaming Funds	-	1,300,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,200,000	2,800,000
Erie Community Foundation	1,476,744	2,113,500	-	-	436,200	36,200
Community College Local Share (operating)	1,476,744	3,413,500	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,636,200	2,836,200

Revision 2 adjusted the rollout of educational programs across the first five years of operation. This change caused a decline in the estimated number of students and reduced the number of full-time faculty needed. These changes reduced the operational costs for the first five years of the college. Most of the reduction in cost was applied to the Commonwealth appropriation.

The updated budget provided in Revision 2 calls for \$15.7 million of local funding by year five. The projections call for \$11.2 Million in operating funds, \$2.3 Million for capital expenses and reserves \$2.25 Million for student scholarships. The scholarships are more heavily weighted towards the early years of operation when the college will not have access to federal or state financial aid.

It should also be noted that Revision 1 identified a \$10 million line-item in Act 52 of 2017, the Commonwealth Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) as another source of funding for the college. The County petitioned the Governor for release of \$3.5 million of the funds in 2018. This request is pending and the funding has not been released.

Analysis:

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The threshold used by PDE in reviewing this section of the college plan is one of “reasonableness.” The financial projections rely on aspects that are unknown at this time. It is unknown how many students will enroll, how many faculty the college will require, how much funding will be available from the Commonwealth, etc. Each of these elements add a degree of ambiguity to the budget projections submitted in the college plan. Therefore, it has been PDE’s intent to determine if the college plan has used projections that are reasonable, given what is known about Erie County and its current finances.

Normally this section of a community college plan analysis would analyze the tax base of the county in determining the wealth of the local sponsor. In this case, the County has insisted that the gaming funds plus donations by the Community Foundation will be enough to sustain the college for the first five years of operation; suggesting that local tax revenue will not be used to support the college. The funding scenario provided in Revision 2 enables the college to maintain a positive balance through the first five years by using the \$3.7 Million pledged by the Erie Community Foundation in addition to funding derived from the gaming funds.

There is concern over whether the exclusive use of gaming fund revenue will limit the ability of the college to grow over time. Additional concern comes from the method the County used to estimate their Commonwealth appropriation; both operating and capital. After PDE provided additional guidance on how community college funding is allocated, the County updated the Commonwealth contribution in Revision 2 with increases averaging 5.54% during years two through five and held steady at five percent through year 10. This is a more reasonable scenario given the current method used in Legislation for determining community college allocations. However, it is also worth noting that a typical increase for community colleges has been below five percent over the last several years.

The State Board Subcommittee asked the County about the large increases in Commonwealth operating payments and the County claimed that the calculation was based on an estimated amount per FTE for the first year and then increased by two percent each year. Community colleges have not been funded strictly on FTE since the funding formula changed in 2005. In recent years, existing funds have been distributed based on the distribution in the prior year, while new funds are distributed based on the share of FTEs served by a college relative to all community college FTEs in the prior year. It is hard to say how a new community college would fare under this scenario. While the new college would have a relatively small number of FTEs compared to the other fourteen colleges, it is likely that it will see growth while many of the other colleges have seen enrollment stagnate or even decline slightly.

The County believes that an exception would need to be made to allow for the new community college to be funded in a way that recognizes that the college’s needs will change as enrollment grows over the first several years of the college’s operation. This is

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a change that would need to be addressed legislatively and is not one that PDE or the State Board has the authority to grant.

The issue of capital funding is similarly problematic. Colleges do not receive an annual allocation of capital funds, rather funds are distributed for individual projects that have been approved for funding. Colleges receive increases based on projects approved in any given year through an annual capital application process. This makes planning for a new college with unpredictable needs difficult to project. The update provided in Revision 2 does limit the large increases in capital needs that were seen in earlier versions of the budget projections.

The County is anticipating \$10 Million of funding approved through the RACP process. While the RACP legislation authorized the funds, it does not guarantee the county will ever receive them. The Legislature approved the RACP line item in Fall 2017, and it will remain active for 10 years. The Governor has discretion over whether this funding is released.

Determination:

The evidence and financial projections provided in Revision 2 of the College Plan are reasonable and meet the Legislative requirements in regard to financing the college. Concerns regarding the long-term suitability of using gaming funds as the sole local support of the community college remains.

Required Element C

24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d)

“...and is not adequately served by established institutions of higher learning.”

Evidence:

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the region’s educational landscape including several graphs to demonstrate the degree to which the population of Erie lags the rest of the state and nation in terms of postsecondary degree attainment. A table is also included that shows the tuition charged by the existing postsecondary institutions in the county.

A more expansive discussion of the current postsecondary and higher education landscape is included on page 38 of the feasibility study. This section includes a profile of each postsecondary institution in Erie County outlining the student body and tuition rates. It also includes the programs of study and degrees offered by each institution.

The Subcommittee requested the County provide additional information on the programs the proposed college plans to offer, the offerings of the other postsecondary institutions in

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the County, a discussion of any overlaps, and additional information about the Northwest Pennsylvania Regional College¹ (NPRC). The County's response included a short narrative response to each of the Subcommittee's questions but also included a table in exhibit G to further demonstrate the programming that is currently available. The response also contained exhibit H, a document provided by the NPRC that discusses the college's Erie operations and included a table of the academic and workforce programs that would be implemented over the next several years.

Analysis:

In analyzing whether Erie County is adequately served by existing institutions of higher education, it is important to not just focus on the presence of other institutions but also their cost, admissions standards, and available programs of study. The State Board has a policy regarding duplication of educational opportunities within a region which also impacts this analysis.

When looking at the educational attainment of its residents, Erie County is significantly above the national average in high school completion but lags the nation in every other attainment measure from 'some college, no degree' to "graduate degree." This finding suggests that existing institutions are not adequately serving the needs of the County.

In general, a community college serves a different target audience than the colleges and universities that currently serve the region. Gannon, Mercyhurst and Penn State Behrend are largely importers of students to Erie County. Their tuition rates put them out of reach of most of the students who would be drawn to the community college. They are also not open access institutions, meaning that they do not admit all students who apply. Community colleges are open access and admit all students regardless of previous academic achievement.

Edinboro University is the only regionally accredited institution currently serving Erie County that has tuition that is low enough to be considered by many of the currently unserved students in Erie County. However, Edinboro is located in the southern portion of the county, which may serve to limit the number of students from Erie city and the rural parts of the county who are able to commute to Edinboro. Like the other universities in Erie County, Edinboro is also not an open access institution. Edinboro has operated the Porreco Campus, which is closer to the city, over the last several years but will be phasing out its open access associate degree programs that were offered at the campus.

The proposed Erie County Community College is projected to have a tuition and fees of \$125 per credit. In addition to tuition, the college plans to charge fees of approximately \$22 per credit. A full-time student taking 15 credits per semester can expect to pay approximately \$3,528 in tuition and fees for one year (fall and spring). Tuition for the

¹ Previously known as the Rural Regional College of Northern PA

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existing Erie County institutions varies from a low of \$9,536 at Edinboro to \$33,314 at Mercyhurst.

The college plan identifies four private licensed schools (PLS), schools that offer technical career training, in Erie County. The PLS institutions largely serve the same population but due to cost, there is a significant portion of the underrepresented population not being served. The four PLS schools have costs that vary by program, from a low of \$21,944 to \$36,400 for an Associate of Specialized Technology or Business degree. These institutions primarily focus on preparing students for direct entry to careers, and do not provide the transfer function that a comprehensive community college is able to provide. Since the technical schools are not regionally accredited, students are limited in the ability to transfer on to further their education. Fortis Institute and Triangle Tech have recently announced planned closures.

In light of the State Board's policy on program duplication, PDE attempted to review the proposed degree programs of the college plan and compare them to the programs already being offered in the county. Potential duplication was difficult to determine using the information provided in the college plan due to the way the information was provided. As an alternative, PDE relied on information submitted by the existing institutions to the Department's Annual Survey of Educational Programs. This is not a perfect solution due to the lack of common naming conventions between programs that make it difficult to determine if programs are truly equivalent (*ie.* Criminal Justice, Police Science, Justice Systems). Based on this analysis, the only institution that does not appear to have overlap with programs to be offered by the community college is the Erie branch of Triangle Tech. Each of the other institutions appear to have at least some overlap with the proposed majors to be offered by the proposed community college. The table in Attachment 2 provides a listing of the areas of overlap between the institutions.

This discussion has not focused on the NPRC which for the last three years has been offering academic programs in conjunction with Gannon University. For the first two years they offered Associate degrees in Business Administration and Interdisciplinary Studies. Last year they began offering Criminal Justice and Early Childhood Education at the Associate degree level. These programs are being offered across the college's nine-county region. Beginning with the Spring semester, 2020, the college will be ending their contract with Gannon and begin offering the programs on their own. With a tuition rate of \$180 per credit with fees of \$18 per credit, the NPRC has a tuition that is more affordable than any of the current options in Erie County. This would result in tuition and fees for a full-time student taking 30 credits of \$5,600.

The NPRC is not currently independency accredited by Middle States or any other accreditor. The current programs being offered in conjunction with Gannon are covered under the partner's accreditation. The college will be seeking accreditation once they begin offering their own programs independent of Gannon.

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One additional note of comparison may be instructive when looking at Erie County from the standpoint of “unmet educational need.” A comparison may be made to Northampton County which is similar in size to Erie County, exceeding its adult population by only 12,000 adults. Northampton Community College (NCC) enrolled 7,450 credit FTEs in 2017-18. Approximately 77% of NCC’s credit students are from the sponsoring area of the college, meaning the students are residents of eight sponsoring school districts in Northampton County. Therefore, Northampton County supports a Credit-FTE enrollment at NCC of approximately 5,736 FTE students. Northampton County is located in the Lehigh Valley, which is home to more than 20 postsecondary education providers; including Lehigh Carbon Community College which is approximately 20 miles away in neighboring Lehigh County. Even with the large number of other institutions in the surrounding region, NCC is able to enroll a significant share of the local population.

Determination:

While there are a number of postsecondary institutions in Erie County, there continues to be unmet educational need. Based on PDE’s review of enrollment rates and a comparison of tuition at the existing institutions within Erie County, our determination is that the area is not adequately served by established institutions of higher education.

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Additional Plan Requirements

Legislation requires that the college plan contain certain elements in order to be approved by the Board. There is, however, no requirement for the State Board to provide any type of value judgement on the adequacy or reasonableness of the following elements. In an effort to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the plan as required by law, we have included the table below outlining each of the additional elements required for the plan.

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Table 4: Additional Plan Requirements	
<p>24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d) “No plan for the establishment of a community college shall be approved unless it contains an estimate of operating cost for administration, instruction, operation and maintenance and such other accounts as the State Board of Education may, from time to time, determine.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u></p> <p>The plan and revisions include detailed budgets for the first five years including operating expenses in each of the required categories. The estimates for operating are based on 500 projected FTEs in the first year. This estimate drives assumptions regarding facility utilization as well as requirements for faculty and staff to operate the college. The budget is separated into a start-up period and operational period.</p> <p>The start-up period, or “pre-year one,” includes all activities that must be accomplished from the point in time that the State Board approves the college plan until students walk into the building on the first day of class. This would include hiring of a president and other administrative staff, identifying and leasing facilities, recruiting and hiring faculty, developing curriculum, and outfitting facilities with equipment and preparing classrooms. The operating costs and budget for this period is heavily dependent on the number of students who enroll at the college.</p>
	<p><u>Analysis:</u></p> <p>The plan meets the requirements of 24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d). The estimates provided in the college plan are based on the assumptions made regarding the number of students that are anticipated to enroll over the first five years of operation.</p>
	<p>24 P.S. §19-1902-A(d) “No plan for the establishment of a community college shall be approved unless it contains an estimate of any proposed capital improvements for the next following ten years.”</p>

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<p>24 P.S. §19-1903-A(a)“A proposed community college plan shall be submitted by the local sponsor in such form and containing such information as the State Board of Education may require.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u></p>
	<p>Erie County, serving as the local sponsor of the proposed community college, submitted the community college plan to the State Board of Education on June 30, 2017. A resolution of sponsorship approved by County Council was included in the application packet. The resolution was approved on June 27, 2017.</p>
	<p><u>Analysis:</u></p>
<p>Erie County meets the legislative requirement for a local sponsor and complied with the legislative requirement for submitting the college plan to the Board.</p>	
<p>24 P.S. §19-1903-A(a) “The plan shall designate the name of the proposed community college which shall be the "Community College of " or "..... Technical Institute," stating the name of the local sponsor or area of such community college.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u></p>
	<p>The title page of the community college plan designates the name of the community college as “Erie County Community College”</p>
	<p><u>Analysis:</u></p>
<p>Based on the legislation, the name of the college should be “Community College of Erie County.” However, since the original community college legislation was passed in 1963 there have been a total of 16 institutions approved and only four have used the construct supplied in the legislation. All the approved names, however, have complied with the second part of this subsection and stated the name of the local sponsor or area of the college. The name of the proposed college is consistent with the naming convention of other community colleges previously approved by the Board.</p>	
<p>24 P.S. §19-1903-A(a) “If there are two or more members of the local sponsor, the plan shall include provisions allocating financial responsibility for the community college among the members of the local sponsor subject to the policies, standards, rules and regulations of the State Board of Education.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u></p>
	<p>Erie County is the sole local sponsor of the proposed college.</p>
	<p><u>Analysis:</u></p>
<p>This section is not applicable as Erie County is the sole local sponsor of the proposed college.</p>	

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<p>24 P.S. §19-1903-A(b) “The community college plan, when submitted by the local sponsor, shall first be approved by the governing body of each member of the local sponsor and shall be submitted by them jointly in all counties.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u> By resolution dated June 27, 2017, Erie County, in its role as local sponsor of the proposed community college, approved the community college plan and submitted the plan to the State Board of Education.</p> <p><u>Analysis:</u> The college plan meets the legislative requirements.</p>
<p>24 P.S. §19-1913-A(a) “The plan submitted by the local sponsor shall set forth a financial program for the operation of the community college.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u> The plan contains an estimate of revenues and expenses for the start-up year as well as for the first five-full years of operation following the admission of students.</p> <p><u>Analysis:</u> The college plan meets the legislative requirements.</p>
<p>24 P.S. §19-1913-A(a) “The plan shall provide that the local sponsor shall appropriate or provide to the community college an amount at least equal to the community college's annual operating costs less the student tuition as determined in section 1908-A(a) less the Commonwealth's payment as determined in subsection (b)(1) of this section.”</p>	<p><u>Evidence:</u> The local sponsor is providing funding to the college from funds legislatively reserved for the County by Act 42 of 2017. Erie County is guaranteed a minimum of \$5.5 million per year in unrestricted funds from the gaming revenues of Presque Isle Downs Casino.</p> <p><u>Analysis:</u> The plan and the county's response states that the gaming revenue and pledged funding from the Community Foundation and other philanthropy will be sufficient to meet the college's revenue needs for the first five years. This is not the same as saying that the sponsor will “provide to the college an amount at least equal to the community college's annual operating costs less the student tuition as determined in section 1908-A(a) less the Commonwealth's payment...”. Given the fact that, as discussed above, the tuition and Commonwealth appropriation may not meet revenue targets, the sufficiency of the local sponsor funding, and the commitment to that funding, is even more important. Any shortfall in the projected amount of Commonwealth contribution would have to be made up by the local sponsor. The County should consider developing contingency plans for funding the college if the tuition and Commonwealth revenue targets are not met.</p>

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<p>24 P.S. §19-1913-A(a) “The plan shall also provide that one-half of the annual capital expenses shall be appropriated or provided by the local sponsor to the community college.”</p>	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>The plan and revisions provide funding levels for various capital line items (Administration, Classrooms, Labs, etc.).</p>
	<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The college plan meets the legislative requirements. Based on the financial projections, it appears the County will be able to fund the local capital share from their available funding. Erie’s estimates appear to be reasonable. The college may need develop contingency plans and explore the use of leased or donated space, in the event that capital funding from the Commonwealth is not available on the timeline envisioned in the plan.</p>
<p>24 P.S. §19-1913-A(a) “The local sponsor's appropriation for annual operating costs and annual capital expenses may in part be represented by real or personal property or services made available to the community college.”</p>	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>The County’s response (page 21) states that while there will likely be some “in-kind” contributions in the form of facilities and equipment available to the college, the financial projections did not include the value of the contributions in the estimates.</p>
	<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The college plan meets the legislative requirements. To the extent that any in-kind contributions are made of “real or personal property,” the sponsor’s expected share will be reduced. Due to the unpredictability of capital funding, it may require the college to seek out such in-kind contributions of property and equipment.</p>
<p>24 P.S. §19-1913-A(a) “The plan shall indicate whether the appropriation shall come from general revenues, loan funds, special tax levies or from other sources, including student tuitions.”</p>	<p>Evidence:</p> <p>The plan specifies on page 49 that the County will rely upon “other sources” as allowed for by statute. Elsewhere in the plan, and in the County’s response, it is explained that the funds will come from the County’s local share assessment of gaming revenue.</p>
	<p>Analysis:</p> <p>The college plan meets the legislative requirements.</p>

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Attachment 1

Potential Student Enrollment

The 1965 document “Guidelines for the Establishment of Public Community Colleges in Pennsylvania” drafted by the Department, includes three methods that were in use at the time to project enrollment at a proposed community college. Below is a description of the three methods and the numbers of students for the proposed Erie County Community College projected by employing each method. It should be noted that these calculations should not be interpreted to estimate a beginning enrollment for the college. These are enrollment levels that the college would expect to reach over time.

1. One community college student for each 75-100 persons in the general population within a 30-mile radius. Please note that since the application did not identify a location for a main campus or locations for the various learning centers, the population for the entire county was used. Depending on the location of a main campus, the 30-mile radius could include parts of Ohio or New York. While this may slightly skew the potential enrollment projection it simplifies the calculation and is still useful as a general guideline. Since the college will be sponsored by the County, all county residents will be considered to be in the college’s service area. (two different calculations were performed, one with one student for each 75 persons, and one using 100 persons)

1	Population 18-64 (est. 2016)	One CC student for each 75-100 persons	
		75 persons	100 Persons
County			
Erie	173,887	2,318	1,739

Note: Data is based on county profiles reported by the Center for Rural PA. (http://www.rural.palegislature.us/county_profiles.cfm)

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2. One community college student for every three high school students enrolled in grades 10-12.

2	Students grade 10-12 (2018-19)	One enrollment for every three students enrolled grades 10-12 (2018-19)
County		
Erie	9,279	3,093

Note: Data is based on PDE enrollment projections and reports.
<http://www.education.pa.gov/Data-and-Statistics/Pages/Enrollment%20Reports%20and%20Projections.aspx>

3. Thirty percent of the total number of high school graduates during the preceding year within the area to be served reduced by the number of high school graduates normally going to other institutions of higher education.

3	2015-16 High School Graduates	Average number of grads going on to HE (excl. CC)	Estimated Graduates not going to other HE	Anticipated yield of Students (30%)
County				
Erie	1,886	1,009	877	263

NOTE: Data in this table are based on National Student Clearinghouse college-going rate data.

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Attachment 2

This table represents the area of program overlap between the proposed Community College of Erie County and existing postsecondary institutions in the County.

PROGRAM NAME	Edinboro University	Erie Institute	Fortis Institute²	Gannon University	Great Lakes Institute	HVA Educenter	Institute of Medical and Business	Mercyhurst/Mercyhurst NE	Northwest PA Regional College	PSU Behrend	Triangle Tech³
Year One											
Accounting					D						
English/Communications (AA)											
Humanities (AA)											
Sociology (AA)											
Political Science (AA)											
Psychology (AA)											
Art/Music (AA)											
Computer Science (AA)											
Business (AA)	AS			AS			AS	AS	AS	AS	
Agriculture (AA)											
Chemistry (AS)											
Mathematics (AS)											
Biological Sciences (AS)								AS			
Engineering (AS)											
Human/Public Service (AS)											
Environmental Science (AS)											
Automation Engineering Tech (AAS)											
CAD, Machining and Manufacturing (AAS)	AS										
Management, Information Services (AAS)											
Management and Entrepreneurship (AAS)											
Network Systems (AAS)		AST									
Surgical Technology (AAS)					D/AST						
Medical Assisting (AAS)					D		AST	C			

² Fortis Institute has announced a closing date of March 2019

³ Triangle Tech in Erie has announced a pending closure.

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PROGRAM NAME	Edinboro University	Erie Institute	Fortis Institute⁴	Gannon University	Great Lakes Institute	HVA Educenter	Institute of Medical and Business	Mercyhurst/ Mercyhurst NE	Northwest PA Regional College	PSU Behrend	Triangle Tech⁵
Year One (cont.)											
Welding (AAS)		D					D				
Year Two											
No new programs											
Year Three											
Electrical Engineering Technologies (AAS)										AS	
Nursing (AAS)								AS			
Tourism/Hospitality (AAS)								AS			
Human Services (AAS)											
Public Safety (AAS)	AS			AS				AS	AS		
Software and Mobile App (AAS)											
Year Four											
Computer Security (AAS)											
Interactive Digital Media (AAS)											
Human Services (AAS)	AS										
Digital Arts (AAS)											
Medical Coding: Physician Office (AAS)		D			D		D				
Environmental Technology (AAS)											
Counseling (AAS)											
Sports and Fitness management (AAS)											

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PROGRAM NAME	Edinboro University	Erie Institute	Fortis Institute⁶	Gannon University	Great Lakes Institute	HVA Educenter	Institute of Medical and Business	Mercyhurst/ Mercyhurst NE	Northwest PA Regional College	PSU Behrend	Triangle Tech⁷
Year Five											
Industrial Maintenance (AAS)		D									
Quality Assurance Specialist (AAS)											
Hardware Maintenance and Information System (AAS)											
Web Development (AAS)		AST									
Logistics (AAS)											
Journalism and Communications (AAS)											
Diagnostic Medical Sonography (AAS)					D/AST						
Sustainable Agriculture (AAS)											
Public Administration (AAS)											

⁶ Fortis Institute has announced a closing date of March 2019

⁷ Triangle Tech in Erie has announced a pending closure.