

ECSD NEWS RELEASE

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ECSD Workforce Education Announcements

During the June meeting of the Escambia County School Board, three new Escambia County School District Career and Technical Training education academies were approved and three existing academies will have new names.

“With close to 2/3 of all middle and high school students in Escambia County public schools enrolled in one of our career and technical academies, we are constantly looking for ways to update the programs we offer to be sure we are doing our best to stay ahead of the upcoming needs of local employers as well as finding programs that will help our students prepare for their future careers,” said Dr. Michelle Taylor, ECSD’s Director of Workforce Education. “To do this, we work in partnership with our local business leaders to form advisory councils. These changes are the results of their input as well as our attention to our students’ career and academic interests.”

With these additions, ECSD will be up to 51 high school and 16 middle school academies.

Three NEW Workforce Education Academies

J.M. Tate High School will be establishing the J.M. Tate High School Agriscience Academy. Agriculture classes have been offered in the past, but now they will be focused into three streams of instruction – Agritechnology, Technical Agriculture Operations and Horticultural Science. Students will strive to achieve industry certifications such as Agricultural Associate Certification, Agricultural Mechanics Specialist Certification, and/or Agritechnology Specialist Certification. Students in the new academy will still have the chance to participate in the Tate FFA program, along with the students in the existing Tate High Veterinary Science Academy.

Pensacola High School will be starting a Culinary Arts Academy to provide rigorous and relevant instruction in academic and technical instruction including opportunities to develop professional skills in the culinary and hospitality career fields. Skills will be acquired for a range of food service careers including chef, restaurant management, nutritionists, food editor/stylists, sales/marketing, food purchasing or catering director, and many more. Academy students will have the chance to earn Industry Certifications in this field of study, to include National ProStart Certificate and Food Safety Manager.

Booker T. Washington High School will now offer a Media Academy for students interested in careers as television production operators, television broadcast technicians, camera operators, and other professional/para-professional technicians, video recording engineers, and audio recording engineers. Television production skills that will be developed will include script writing, lighting, shooting and directing, electronic news gathering, and field production. Industry certification opportunities will include the Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) in Premiere Pro Creative Cloud.

Three ECSD Academies Getting New Names

In addition to these new career academy additions, the School Board voted to approve name changes for three existing high school career academies.

The Booker T. Washington High School Aviation Maintenance Academy is now the Aviation Technology Academy. The new name will better describe the nature of the academy and aligns with local industry needs. Course work starts with a year of Private Pilot Ground School and then moves into three years of Aviation Assembly Technician coursework. Students in the Aviation Technology Academy will have opportunities for work-based learning with local aviation industry partners and will also gain knowledge of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), aviation history and innovations, quality control, aircraft manufacturing processes, and mathematical practices related to the assembly and fabrication of aircraft. They will also gain hands-on experience with aviation tools and materials. The Industry Certification associated with this academy is the Aerospace/Aircraft Assembly (AAA) certification. These high school students will learn foundational aviation maintenance skills that will help prepare them to continue their education at GSTC's Aviation Maintenance program and earn an Airframe and Powerplant license.

At Northview High School and Pensacola High School, the Automation and Production Technology Academies will now be branded as Advanced Manufacturing Academies. The course sequence will match the new state curriculum framework and relevant technical knowledge and skills needed for careers in Advanced Manufacturing Technology. Students will gain a foundation of knowledge and experiences in the study of automation technology and its application in the fields of manufacturing, engineering and robotics. Students will also work toward the Industry Certification, Manufacturing Skills Standards Council/Certified Production Technician.

Each of these academies will be affiliated with a Business Advisory Council composed of representatives from businesses and industry leaders who partner with the academies to keep the curriculum current, serve as guest speakers and provide opportunities for work-based learning experiences. Participation in all ECSD career and technical academies include the development of "soft skills" employers in all fields are looking for, such as time management, teamwork, creative problem solving, general employability skills, presentation skills and leadership.

For more information about ECSD Workforce Education options, go to: <http://ecsd-fl.schoolloop.com/career>

Any questions, can be directed to Kim Stefansson, ECSD Public Relations Coordinator, kstefansson@escambia.k12.fl.us, [850-393-0539](tel:850-393-0539) (cell).

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