

Summary

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Award
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Joint Committee Meeting

*Seminar Room 8 PM

September 9, 2026
October 14, 2026*
November 11, 2026*
December 9, 2026
January 13, 2027
February 10, 2027
March 10, 2027*
April 14, 2027
May 12, 2027*
June 16, 2027

Awards Night

May 19, 2027
Upper Moreland HS

Get the Board Brief by email:
contact Amy Shields

for more information at
ashields@eastech.org

215.784.4806

Visit our website!

www.eastech.org

A report from the August 2026 meeting of EASTERN's Joint Operating Committee (JOC). EASTERN is a part of the school districts of Abington, Bryn Athyn, Cheltenham, Hatboro-Horsham, Jenkintown, Lower Moreland, Springfield, Upper Dublin, and Upper Moreland.

EASTERN'S Executive Director Recognized with Leadership Award

In July, EASTERN's Administration Team attended the Pennsylvania Association of Career & Technical Administrators (PACTA) Conference at Penn State University. During the conference, EASTERN's Executive Director, Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, was honored with the Jacqueline L. Cullen Distinguished CTE Leadership Award.

We are incredibly proud of Dr. Plesnarski and her unwavering commitment to advancing equity, inclusion, and excellence in Career & Technical Education. Her leadership continues to make a lasting impact on our students, staff, and the CTE community.

Congratulations, Dr. Plesnarski, on this well-deserved and distinguished honor!



Photo from left to right: Lou Geld, Technology Manager, Joe Greb, Assistant Director, Dr. Cathleen Plesnarski, Executive Director, Katie Braun, Business Manager, and Gerry Rooney, CTE Supervisor.

2026 – 2027 Enrollment

EASTERN enrollment for the 2026 – 2027 enrollment as of August 6, 2026, is 702, with 94 students on a waitlist.

BOARD BRIEF

August 2026

Summer Cosmetology

The Summer Cosmetology program was held from June 22 - July 23, 2026, and a total of 59 students were enrolled including all students from the waitlist.

This year 13 seniors completed their 1250 cosmetology hours required for licensure in PA, with 4 of those students passing the Early State Board Exam earlier this spring and are now licensed cosmetologists.

Key Indicators Approved

Key Indicator	Goal	2025-2026
Enrollment	80%	89%
Attendance	94%	94%
Regular Attendance	85%	86%
EASTERN Retention	85%	84%
Program Retention	85%	83%
Completion	73%	99%
Placement ^	84%	90%
Placement Response %	*	82%
NOCTI -Competent +	91%	95%
NOCTI -Advanced	72%	64%
Industry Certifications	75%	99%
Climate and Culture	95%	97%

SkillsUSA Fundraisers – 2026 - 2027

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following SkillsUSA fundraisers for the upcoming school year:

- Pretzel – October
- Chicken and Tots – November
- Hot Dog/Hamburger– December
- Krispy Kreme – February
- Pretzel –March
- Ice Cream – April
- Food Surplus Sale and Car Detailing – May

Facilities Update

Carl D. Perkins Grant

The Joint Operating Committee approved the acceptance of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education grant to Assist with Instructional Aide salaries and benefit, SkillsUSA membership, Career Scope Interest Inventories, student certification costs, and more.

Personnel

The Joint Operating Committee approved the following personnel updates:

- Janine Lipinski, Practical Nursing Instructor, has submitted her retirement effective October 2, 2026. EASTERN administration thanks Ms. Lipinski for her service and many contributions since December 1994.
- Gerry Rooney was approved as Safety and Security Coordinator as a part of his normal duties for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Wendy Leyden was approved as Supervisor of Cosmetology for the 2026 – 2027 school year.
- Twenty-eight substitute instructors were approved for the 2026 – 2027 school year.

Designer Bag Bingo

EASTERN is excited to announce its annual Designer Bag Bingo to be held at Upper Moreland High School on October 13, 2026, from 6- 8 p.m. Doors for the event will open at 5 p.m. All proceeds will benefit EASTERN student awards and EASTERN's leadership organization, SkillsUSA. Tickets are available online for \$35 and \$40 at the door. Seating is limited. <https://tinyurl.com/5am2ht8t>.

Craft Fair

The Joint Operating Committee approved the use of EASTERN's facilities for a December 6, 2026, Craft fair in conjunction with the Kiwanis Club of Old York Road Holiday Breakfast. Proceeds from the Craft Fair will benefit EASTERN's student leadership organization, SkillsUSA.