

What can graduates expect if they earn EVSC's new work ethic certificate?

Megan Erbacher, Evansville Courier & Press Published 4:30 p.m. CT Aug. 7, 2018

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Evansville Vanderburgh School Corp. seniors can now earn a new certificate and be guaranteed eight job interviews post-graduation or eligible for a college scholarship.

EVSC officials and local business partners recently announced details of the district's new Governor's Work Ethic Certificate — a customized version of the Indiana Governor's Work Ethic Certificate.

The goal, officials said, is to help seniors identify, develop and demonstrate necessary skills to be successful whether they go to college or start a career.

How do students earn the certificate?

It was developed through [OptIN, EVSC's program](#) aiming to make students aware of various opportunities after high school graduation. OptIN Executive Director B.J. Watts said the new certificate instills universal skills relevant to every position in a company.

To earn the certificate students must master six skills and achieve four academic standards set by the state.

EVSC seniors are required to master P.R.I.D.E.S

1. Persistence: Students will be resilient, persevere through challenges and problem solve.
2. Responsibility: Students will accept and demonstrate service to others, possess a positive attitude and communicate effectively and appropriately.
3. Initiative: Students will demonstrate the ability to self-start and think creatively and critically. Students will be involved and take ownership of their work.
4. Dependability: Students will show

reliability and accountability, demonstrating responsibility and consistent punctuality.

5. Ethics: Students will be trustworthy and demonstrate humility, integrity and independence in their actions.
6. Self-Management: Students will be flexible, work collaboratively with others and manage emotions.

To prove understanding of the skills, students need to collect three signatures from educators for each of the six traits for 18 total signatures. An educator can sign off on more than one skill, but cannot sign the same skill twice.

Seniors must also accomplish four academic components set by Indiana:

1. Attendance rate at 98 percent or higher for

the student's senior year

2. Six hours of community service during the student's senior year
3. Maximum of one office referral permitted in the student's senior year
4. Minimum of a 2.0 Cumulative GPA throughout high school

So, why should seniors enroll?

Seniors who earn the certificate are guaranteed eight job interviews after graduation. Those interviews are currently with: AmeriQual Group, LLC.; Berry Global; Capital Electric, Inc.; Flanders; Koch Enterprises, Inc.; Old National Bancorp; St. Vincent Evansville and Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana.

Additional incentives from local employers include tuition reimbursement, increased base pay, bonus vacation days, sign-on bonuses and gym memberships.

Students who earn the certificate and choose college after graduation are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship from Old National Bank. Six \$1,000

scholarships will be given to one student from Reitz, North, Harrison, Central and Bosse. The sixth scholarship will go to a student from either AIS-First Ave., AIS-Diamond, New Tech Institute or Virtual Academy.

"I'm proud of this community's continued commitment to enhancing the lives and opportunities of our students," Watts said.

The certificate will set students apart from their peers, according to Makenzie Coulter, Flanders corporate engineering manager and public relations.

"Collaboration between the EVSC and area employers is a critical component to building a sustainable workforce and community," Coulter said. "We are all stronger as one."

The EVSC will enroll all eligible seniors at the beginning of the school year, or students can enroll online through their EVSC email account at: goo.gl/3Dpx7u.

The deadline to enroll is Aug. 31.

Future plans

Watts said there are plans to offer a similar certificate to middle school students and K-5 kids over the next two school years.