**School Counts!**

Young people need to know that there is a correlation between working hard in school and finding a job whether that job is in a Fortune 500 company or in the stockroom of a local retail store. They need to know that attendance, punctuality, attitude and effort count, and that nothing succeeds like hard work. Many school districts in Central Pennsylvania are currently offering students the opportunity to earn a School Counts! certificate which will demonstrate these qualities. Employers can reinforce these messages by asking young adult job applicants for their School Counts! certificate. School Counts! will help students understand that school performance is important and will help develop a more highly qualified workforce.

**HOW TO GET INVOLVED**

* Sign up to be a School Counts! employer at <http://www.pct.edu/k12/schoolcounts>.
* Use the School Counts! Certificate as one of the criteria used to evaluate high school job applicants by simply asking to see a student’s certificate.
* Encourage other companies to participate in and support School Counts!
* Allow your company to be identified in our [Participating Businesses](http://www.pct.edu/k12/school-counts.asp) list.
* Volunteer to visit schools to talk about your needs as an employer

**THE PROCESS**

School Counts! is a school-based initiative that encourages employers to use high school performance as one of the criteria used to evaluate high school job applicants. Participating employers will ask for the School Counts! credential during an interview. Students can earn a School Counts! certificate annually in grades 9 through 12 and a Master Certificate if they participate in the program for all four years. The School Counts! credential certifies that an individual has: obtained a grade of 'C' or better in every course, achieved a 95% attendance and punctuality record, completed high school in eight consecutive semesters (to be eligible for the Master Certificate), taken more than the minimum graduation requirements, and demonstrated positive behavior including no out-of-school suspensions.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

* Display School Counts! decal and posters in window or other noticeable areas
* Speak to classes about how important School Counts! is to their future
* Market to employees as parents
* Donate incentives for students to sign up
* Provide awards for students who receive a certificate