Youth Committee

Agenda

Zoom Video Conference
Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Welcome & Call to Order	J. Ritter
Public Comment	
Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes	J. Ritter
Program Updates	A. Grose

- PY25 Q4 Common Measures Review
- PY26 Q1 Youth Program Goals Report
- Overview of In-School Youth Program Design
- Overview of Out-of-School Youth Program Design
- PY26 Business Education Partnership Grant Overview

Committee Priorities	J. Ritter
2027 Meeting Dates	J. Ritter
Open Discussion	J. Ritter
Date of Next Meeting	J. Ritter
Adjournment	J. Ritter

Youth Committee

Meeting Notes
May 13, 2026

The Youth Committee of Advance Central PA held an in-person meeting on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at the Advance Central PA office, 130 Kelly Square Suite 1, Lewisburg, PA.

The following members attended:
Jon Ritter
Jenna Witherite
Jonah Howe

The following members were excused:
Joshua Bell
Stephanie Servose

The following guests attended:
None

The following staff attended:
Allison Grose
Erica Mulberger
Kelly Walter

Welcome & Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Jon Ritter, Youth Committee Chair.

Public Comment
None.

Review & Approval of Meeting Minutes

- **Jenna Witherite made a motion to approve the February 24, 2026, Youth Committee meeting minutes. Jonah Howe seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved with no abstentions.**

Program Updates

PY25 Q2 Common Measures Review
Allison Grose, Advance Central PA Youth Programs Coordinator, reviewed the Common Measures performance for PY25 Quarter 2 through December 31, noting that the data reflects the most current information available. All performance measures exceeded the negotiated goals. Allison highlighted the strong performance of the Out-of-School Youth (OSY) program during the quarter and noted the team's diligence in ensuring program data was accurately entered into the system of record with validating documentation that proved performance was met.

Erica Mulberger, Executive Director of Advance Central PA, shared that PY26 Common Measures performance targets will be negotiated. Jon noted that PY25 goal for Credential Attainment PY25 is significantly lower than the state's target rate and questioned what the strategy for continuous improvement and whether Erica anticipates the state may want to negotiate higher.

Erica explained the negotiation process and confirmed she expects the state to encourage movement toward higher goals, however, realistic goals appropriate for each local area are critical and the negotiation process allows for this. She described the strategy for continuous improvement as one where credentials align with individual career pathways rather than pursuing credentials in bulk solely to improve performance numbers.

PY25 Q3 Youth Program Goals Report

In-School Youth (ISY)
Comprehensive Registrations have exceeded the program year goal. Comprehensive Paid Work Experiences stand at 19 attained compared to a goal of 45, however, growth is expected as students seek summer opportunities. Job Shadows are also expected to increase. Specialized Registrations are lower than anticipated. One Business Challenge cohort was held in April with another scheduled for May. Camp STEAM is also scheduled for May.

Jenna asked Allison to explain the Business Challenge activity. Allison described that a small group of ISY program participants are paired up with a local business, who gives them a real-world problem to solve. The participants are tasked with learning about the business and developing creative solutions to the assigned problem.

Out-of-School Youth (OSY)

Out-of-School Youth (OSY) WIOA registrations stand at 146 with a goal of 200. Paid Pre-Work Experience attainment is at 45%, and paid internships are at 37%, which are lower than anticipated. Feedback from businesses continues to indicate that limited capacity on their end poses a challenge to hosting OSY participants.

Erica communicated an issue with the Committee about a recent On-the-Job Training (OJT) account. The business hired the young adult prior to the start of the OJT which is unallowable. No reimbursements were made and corrective actions have been required of the OSY program and Business Solutions Team to help mitigate future business misunderstandings in this regard. This OJT is not counted in the OSY goals.

Business Education Partnership (BEP) Grant Brainstorming

Allison shared an in-depth overview of the Business Education Partnership (BEP) Grant, funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry (L&I). BEP if funded by WIOA state set-aside funds and gives flexibility outside of the normal WIOA Youth programming stipulations, including eligibility. Allison provided an overview of activities funded by the current BEP grant to kick-off discussion and Committee prioritization of projects to apply for in the new anticipated grant opportunity.

Outreach Services

This program funds the ISY staff in providing career awareness and workforce readiness activities for students, parents, and educators across the 31 school districts in the region. Services include dedicated support to assist students with mock interviews, resume development, and information on PA CareerLink® services. The program is well-received by Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Career Pathway teachers.

Student/Educator in the Workplace

This program is also available for students and educators across the 31 school districts and is coordinated by the ISY program with staff time funded with the grant. In this activity, students and their educators visit local businesses to learn about careers pathways. Grant funds are also used to help districts overcome barriers to the events, including transportation and lunches.

What's So Cool About Manufacturing?

This statewide competition gives groups of middle school students the opportunity to learn about manufacturing by creating a video showcasing their local manufacturing company. Participation typically includes five to six local school districts annually. Grant funds help support the overall project in coordination with local partners.

Committee members discussed the value of tracking long-term student outcomes; ideally the middle school students who are involved pursue a career in manufacturing.

Path to Careers

This website helps students and educators connect with businesses in a streamlined way to increase access to career exploration activities and helps students meet graduation requirements. This website was initially started with BEP funding. Currently, BEP funding is being used for site updates and staff time.

Virtual Reality Headsets

Ten virtual reality headsets from Transfr VR are leased and used by the ISY program across all districts. The headsets are preloaded with career exploration software, allowing users to experience 60 occupations in 14 industries with additional programming continually being added.

Committee members discussed and asked questions regarding cost, potential consortium pricing, and what percentage of the overall grant funding is going toward VR. It was determined that in the next round of BEP, staff may request to continue the VR, but with fewer headsets. Additional discussion included VR simulation alignment with High Priority Occupations (HPO) and how participants engage with available career content. Allison shared the Transfr VR simulation catalog with the Committee and showed there are several simulations for occupations on the HPO list. There is also a headset feature that allows program staff to pick and choose which simulations are available to headset users.

Aviation STEM Camp
Susquehanna STEM to the Skies hosts an annual Aviation STEM camp for high school students at the Penn Valley Airport. Students learn about science, technology, engineering and math concepts with hands on activities, fly in a full motion aviation simulator, hear from guest speakers in the aviation field, and learn about post-secondary education opportunities in the Central Region. BEP funding is used for direct support as well as staff time for planning, recruiting, and overseeing registration.

Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week
This is a five-day camp open to high school students across Pennsylvania, educating them on the American free enterprise system. The program is supported by business leaders who volunteer their time, with most funding coming from local businesses. While participants are expected to cover their own $295 registration fee, Advance Central PA utilizes BEP funds to cover registration fees for ten (10) students from the Central Region.

Brainstorming
Allison thanked members for discussion as she reviewed the activities currently funded by BEP and welcomed additional feedback. Committee discussion ensued. Members recommended that staff consider another round of the "Dinner & Dessert" initiative, from an older BEP grant, citing successes and opportunities to apply lessons learned. Members expressed the importance of staff considering how to track long-term outcomes for all initiatives. Outreach Services were discussed and members found this component important to leverage. Members wondered about the potential to integrate STEM camps into school curriculum. Consideration was given to reducing the number of Virtual Reality headsets while maintaining their value as a career exploration tool. Additionally, the Committee discussed challenges with meeting Student/Educator in the Workplace goals but recognized the program as a cost-effective method for providing student exposure to local careers and career pathways.

Procurement Updates
Allison provided an update on the OSY RFP, noting the Evaluation Committee had met and their recommendation to negotiate a contract with Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit (CSIU) was approved by the Executive Committee.

The ISY contract is set to expire on June 30, and an RFP has been posted, with proposals due May 27. Jon and Stephanie volunteered to serve on the Evaluation Committee with an anticipated recommendation to the Workforce Development Board at their June meeting.

Committee Priorities
Allison welcomed members to share topics of interest for their next meeting. She noted a plan to review the ISY program design since the RFP was broadly written to welcome new models.

Open Discussion
None.

Date of Next Meeting
The next Youth Committee meeting will be held on August 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Advance Central PA office in Lewisburg.

Adjournment
With no further business to discuss, Jon adjourned the meeting at 11:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Walter

Kelly Walter, Office/Board Coordinator

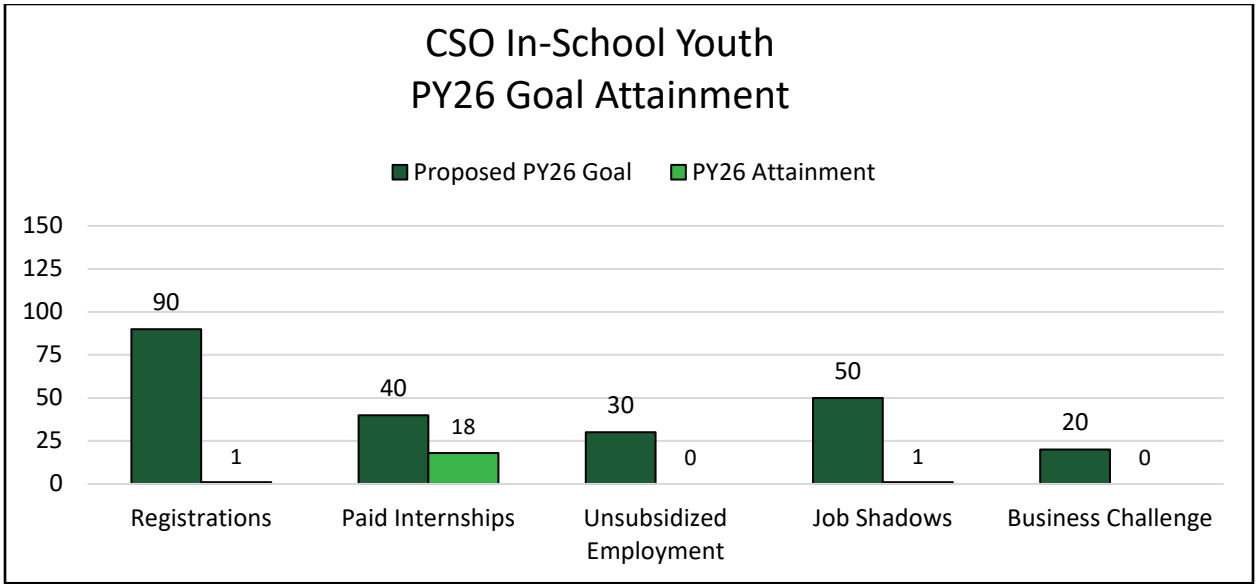
Goal Attainment Report

In-School Youth

Program Provider: CSO

PY26 Quarter 1: July 1, 2026- September 30, 2026

Program Element	Proposed PY26 Goal	PY26 Q1 Attainment	% of goal reached
Registrations	90	1	1%
Paid Internships	40	18	45%
Unsubsidized Employment Placements	30	0	0%
Job Shadows	50	1	2%
Business Challenge	20	0	0%



Goal Attainment Report

Out-of-School Youth

Program Provider: CSIU

PY26 Quarter 1: July 1, 2026- September 30, 2026

Program Element	Proposed PY26 Goal	PY26 Q1 Attainment	% of goal reached
Registrations	150	37	25%
Paid Pre-Work Experience	25	13	52%
Job Shadows	30	12	40%
Paid Internships	30	16	53%
On-the-Job Training	8	2	25%

