Putnam County High School (PCHS) developed the Youth Empowerment for Success (YES) Program after being awarded a $2.4M Youth CareerConnect grant funded by the US Department of Labor. The YES Program was created with the main goal of providing students with opportunities and skills that will help them be successful after they graduate from high school.

YES students will complete all requirements for obtaining a high school diploma, while simultaneously earning college credit. YES Program curriculum includes dual-enrollment courses in academics as well as occupational classes in the areas of healthcare, information technology, and welding. YES students will also learn the soft skills necessary for life after high school and have an assortment of ways to explore their college and career interests outside of the traditional classroom.

PCHS has partnered with colleges, community groups, and businesses in order to ensure meaningful and transferable experiences for program students. Students will be able to be exposed the world of work through career fairs and employer site visits, as well as obtain on-the-job training during internships and job shadowing. They also will have a chance to research institutions of higher education by recruitment visits, college fairs, and campus tours. Additionally, each YES Program student will be able to hear guest speakers from high-demand industries, participate in mentorships, and work on community service learning projects.

The YES Program is helping students to be successful because they will truly be college or career ready after graduation from Putnam County High School!

Last year, we enrolled 204 students into the YES Program and offered a variety of services to those students. 110 of them took advantage of the 29 different post-secondary courses we offer at PCHS through a variety of pathways. On average, each of those students earned 21 hours of post-secondary credit; an estimated tuition cost savings equaling over $300,000. Furthermore, as a result of their achievement in dual-enrollment courses, we also awarded 443 industry recognized credentials and technical certificates of credit.