

Comments from our "weighting" discussions.....

At our school we have an agreement that when we are fully certified by PLTW, our courses will become weighted based on the fact that college credits can be tested into by the students. I know that in the format of our school, this is going to cause a lot of consternation among the other Small Learning Communities because we will then attract even more of the honors (grade/ class rank mongering) students. Since we will be the only community with 4 weighted thematic courses. This will create a greater disparity than already exists. (We get a greater share of academic driven students than other communities because of the Engineering theme.)

We weight our PLTW classes at TVHS. If they were not weighted I believe our enrollment would not be what it is now. However, I believe it deserves the weight by what is demanded from the students in the classes.

We weight DE, and the capstone (EDD).

At MaST Charter School they are not weighted at this time. It is my hope to have them weighted in the future.

I know that I responded earlier but I want to extend my comments after reading some of the other responses. At Radnor if we didn't have weighted grades for our PLTW courses our enrollment would drop significantly. In a school where 90+ % of students go on to a 2 or 4 year school the students are *obsessed* with GPA. I know this opens a whole other discussion about schools, as a whole, weighting grades. I know that our school, because of a new mission statement, often brings up dropping weighted grades to allow students to take classes for the "love of learning".

So if a school was starting up PLTW, I would recommend that you fight for weighting the courses on the basis of college credit and the rigor of the course. Unless they plan to drop weighted grades anyway. And that is my 2 cents.

At West Allegheny we will be weighting the PLTW courses as we add them starting this coming fall. We felt that with the rigor of the courses curriculum, the demand of required math courses, and the encouragement of taking science course, as well as the demand to take these courses in lieu of your average elective, it deserved the weighted grades. It also both prepares students directly for college and can be used to gain college credit. The weighting also gives credence to the courses to encourage students to continue to take them.

We are going for all of our courses as an entire program. The entire program is based on high rigor and relevance. PLTW is what STEM is based on and not the other way around. We are STEM. Our district has been turned onto to STEM and we want them to know that we HAVE BEEN aligned with STEM and this is nothing new to our program. I am unsure why any district would not weight them all. They apply to weight to many levels of core subjects so why not this one as well.

We will be weighting our PLTW courses at Wilson School District for the first time starting next year. As a first year teacher I thought the rigor of the PLTW curriculum was far greater than the every day elective, and that is why I pushed for them to be weighted. Only time will tell what happens to the level of student ability and number of students.

At Montour we weight DE, and CEA. Although IED and POE are challenging courses we feel that weighting the courses later in the pathway is like dangling a carrot in front of the students. It gives them incentive to stick with the program. Plus it helps us compete with all the other AP and CHS classes that Juniors and Seniors are looking to put into their schedule. This is the first year we have done it this way so the long term effects have yet to be seen.

At Bald Eagle Area high school we do not weight the Project Lead The Way courses. The courses are electives and are worth one credit each.

This is the first year that we are offering the PLTW courses. As we grow the program I would also expect that we offer the courses on a weighted scale. There are some high expectations of these students and the program should reward the student for completing these expectations. Those that commented about making the classes weighted and are having a conflict with administration may want to include input from the Partnership Teams. Team members may be an asset in describing the level of accomplishments and activities that are expected from the students.