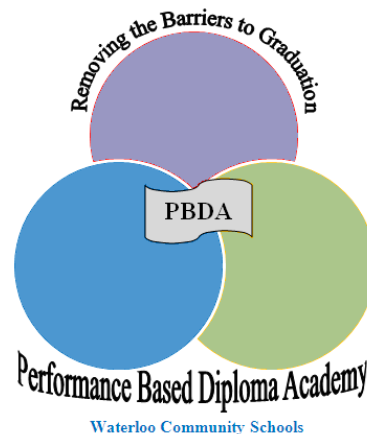


# Waterloo Community Schools East High School-West High School Performance Based Diploma Academy General Information



- **PBDA** is a special alternative smaller learning community for approximately 150 students
- The **PBD** Academy provides an on-site alternative education program serving students who have not reached their potential in a more traditional setting and as a result are at risk of dropping out of high school and for a growing number of students who are bound for post-secondary education, but who – due to a wide variety of personal and familial circumstances – are unexpectedly deficient in credits. Generally the program is for two types of students.
  - Those students who have not been successful in the traditional Carnegie unit (non-mastery) system.
  - Those who have fallen behind, and are at-risk of not graduating with their class or graduating at all.
- Students are identified for **PBDA** by teacher/counselor nomination or student preference.
- The program has three components: Academic, Career, and Counseling/Mentoring.
  - Academics are primarily delivered by a sophisticated on line software learning system with a small amount of off line work, i.e. writing a paper. The on-line instructional delivery in a small class setting is one of the major differences between **PBDA** and “regular” classes.
  - The Career component consists of a sequence of technical education courses (usually 3 to 4)
  - The Counseling component includes group work, mentoring and personal skill emphasis.
- **PBDA** Supports and nurtures each student’s individual academic, career skill development, and social progress as well as encourages positive group dynamics.



- **PBDA** begins to move away from measuring things like: seat time, homework completion, and student group participation and focuses on **MASTERY**.
  - All students will be awarded a regular Waterloo high school diploma and will meet the same standards and requirements as students in the “regular” program.
- **PBDA** is not a credit recovery program and is not an easy or quick way for a student to graduate.
- This is **NOT** a disciplinary program or for students that are currently expelled.
- Professionals in each **PBDA**: one math teacher, one social studies teacher, one science teacher, one language arts teacher, a (teacher) coordinator and a counselor skilled licensed in therapeutic group counseling. There is also an administrator assigned to the **PBDA**.
- Classrooms are configured in a self-contained, suite-like arrangement. The core area rooms are outfitted as computer labs. The science room has some limited science lab space. The counseling area promotes group discussions and another space is divided into an office area for the coordinator and counselor.