

High School Aviation Program

North Central CTE Cooperative || AlphaFlight LLC

1. How It Works

The North Central CTE Cooperative provides opportunities for students to explore career pathways by offering hands-on learning, post-secondary credits, industry certifications, and work based learning. Students will graduate high school with the academic, technical and employability skills to be ready for college, a career or the military.

AlphaFlight is a flight school located at the Plymouth Municipal Airport (C65) who makes the opportunity for students who are interested in becoming a pilot, aviation mechanic, air traffic controller, airport manager, or any aviation related career possible.

2. What School Corporations Are Involved?

Argos Community School, Culver Community School, John Glenn School, Knox Community School, North Judson-San Pierre School, Oregon-Davis School, Plymouth Community School, Rochester School, Triton School, Union-North United School Corporation.

3. What Does the Program Entail?

The Aviation Flight Program is a half day vocational program at the Plymouth Municipal Airport from 12:30-3:00pm throughout the school year using the Plymouth High School District Calendar. First year students cover flight training more extensively, while second year students have more of an emphasis on airport operations and management. Ground school prepares students to take the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test, in addition to 5 hours of flight instruction in the airplane, and 5 hours of flight instruction in the flight simulator (per year). The students all have an online logbook where their flights and simulator time are recorded.

4. How Many College Credits Can the Students Receive?

The potential Ivy Tech Courses and Credits include: Intro to Aviation Technology (2 credit hours), Private Pilot Theory (6 credit hours), Aviation Weather (3 credit hours), Aviation Operations (3 credit hours), Aviation Safety Management Systems (3 credit hours), Air Traffic Control (3 credit hours).

There is potential for each student to receive 20 credit hours over the course of the 2-year program.

5. How Do Students Hear About the Program?

In addition to word of mouth, high school counselors are one of the greatest assets in promoting the aviation program as they have direct contact with students and hold a plethora of information about all CTE programs.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, AlphaFlight instructors would often go to high schools to talk about the program and answer questions students may have, and they are hoping to start that up again this coming school year.

6. How Do Students Sign Up?

The majority of students sign up through their high school counselor and fill out an application on the CTE website. Following the application process, students are put on a roster which is shared with AlphaFlight for them to prepare the Year 1 and Year 2 students for the coming school year.

7. What Happens During the Aviation Program Orientation?

Prior to the start of the school year, the AlphaFlight Student/Parent Orientation allows students and parents to get an introduction to the aviation program with a presentation from the Year 1 Instructor, AlphaFlight Co-owner and Airport Manager/Year 2 Instructor. Students and Parents also get a tour of the flight school/airport, explore the aircraft, fly in the simulator, sign the student contract, upload personal documents and hear from students of previous years through a Q&A.

8. What is Included in the Student Contract?

It is imperative that parents/legal guardians and their students understand that, as students, they are entering a working business environment that requires additional consideration beyond that of a typical high school classroom. The contract outlines rules regarding safety, professional attire, sick days, class time, and behavior at and around the airport.

9. Are There Any Extra Costs the Students/Parents Need to Pay?

Flight training will be conducted using the Sporty's Online Learning to Fly Course, which will prepare the student to take the FAA written exam as well as provide all of the handbooks to study from which is guided by the Sporty's Private Pilot Training Course Outline (TCO). The Sporty's Private Pilot TCO is a lesson-by-lesson guide to complete pilot training in a structured environment. It includes objectives, content and completion standards to serve as the bridge between the student's at-home study and what they will accomplish in the airplane, the simulator, as well as during ground instruction with their flight instructor. The course is \$279 and is the only expense Students/Parents will need to pay.

10. Is Transportation Provided?

Most of the school districts provide a bus for students to and from the airport for class. If not, students are expected to either drive themselves, with their parent/guardian, or carpool with other students in the class.

11. Are There Opportunities for the Students to Receive Extra Flight Time?

Depending on community events near us such as the Blueberry Festival or Aviation Education Day, students have been able to earn extra flight time throughout the school year (the Principal/Counselor Brunch being one of them)!

12. Are Field Trips Offered Throughout the Program?

In the past students have taken field trips to the Sound Bend Airport to get a tour of the Control Tower and TACAN room (Tactical Air Navigation system), as well as South Bend's ramps and runways. While a field trip to the Indianapolis Airport may be a possibility to tour different aircraft such as the Embraer ERJ, it is certain that students have the opportunity to take a few minutes away from class to check out the different aircraft that land at the Plymouth Airport and learn about airport operations from the airport manager (Year 2 instructor).

13. What if the Students Want to Work Toward Their Private Pilot's License?

All high school students have the opportunity to obtain their private pilot's license by studying and taking lessons with one of our flight instructors outside of the normal 12:30-3 schedule. Many students work towards their Private Pilot License throughout the school year, few begin their training their junior year and most of them work towards their license either their senior year or after they have graduated high school so they have the summer to fly before heading off to college.

To train for one's Private Pilot License, there are two types of flight training a student can choose from - Part 61 and Part 141. Both of them accomplish the same objective, working towards and obtaining the private pilot's license, the only difference is under Part 141 students can gain their certificates and ratings with fewer hours in the airplane and the student will only have 1 year to complete all of their training.

The high school aviation program includes 5 free flight hours and 5 free simulator hours per year, meaning if a student attends for both Year 1 and Year 2, they will finish with 10 free flight hours and 10 free simulator hours. Under Part 141, 5 of those flight hours and 5 of those simulator hours can count towards one's Private Pilot's License. Under Part 61, 5 flight hours and 2.5 simulator hours would count towards their PPL. It is generally more cost effective to go Part 141 if the student is able to complete their training within a year.

To obtain a Private Pilot's License, the FAA requires the student to log a minimum of 35 hours under Part 141 and 40 hours of flight time under Part 61, which includes 20 hours of flight training from an authorized instructor and 10 hours of solo flight training. The student must be at least 16 years old to solo and 17 years old to be eligible for a private pilot certificate. More details on the FAA regulations as to what is needed to go for a student's Private Pilot's License can be found here: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/14/61.109>

If you have any questions or concerns about the CTE program or about flight instruction provided by AlphaFlight, please email jodi@alphaflight.aero or call (574) 914-4455. Thank you!