

Researchers are learning about the transmission of infection and how to determine the source of the outbreak. Innovators are designing and building devices to increase safety at night. Programmers are developing apps and defending data with cybersecurity skills.

These activities and more are taking place in Ray-Pec classrooms as part of Project Lead the Way.

The researchers are fifth graders participating in the “Infection Detection” module, which was implemented this fall.

The innovators are 8th graders in the Innovators and Makers Class.

The programmers are high school students in the Computer Essentials and Cybersecurity courses.

Project Lead the Way is a series of modules and courses that emphasize science, technology, engineering, and math. The program is available for all grade levels. In the Ray-Pec School District, the implementation of PLTW started with the addition of classes in the middle schools and high school in the three major pathways: Computer Science, Engineering, and Biomedical Science. Currently, Ray-Pec offers full course loads in each pathway at the middle schools.

Expanding PLTW is an important action step in the District’s Strategic Plan. During its Nov. 8 special meeting, the School Board heard about expansion plans for the next three years.

At the elementary level, one fifth grade module, “Infection Detection,” was implemented this fall. For the 2019-2020 school year, the District proposed implementing two modules for Kindergarten and first grade, and a second module for 5th grade. For the 2020-2021 school year, the District proposed implementing two modules in each remaining grade level, 2-4. [Elementary PLTW Expansion with Launch](#)

The District proposes expanding the course offerings at the high school by adding: Engineering Design and Development (2019-2020), Medical Interventions (2019-2020), Biomedical Innovations (2020-2021), Cybersecurity (2019-2020), Computer Science Principles (2020-2021), and Computer Science A (2021-2022). [Secondary PLTW Expansion](#)