



NYC Department of Education Special Education District 75



Community Work-Based Learning

The mission of District 75 is to provide appropriate standards-based educational programs with related service supports to approximately 20,000 students with severe challenges, commensurate with their abilities. The district is committed to working with students and their families to afford them an opportunity to maximize their potential, become contributing members of society and develop the tools to ensure maximum personal independence and self-esteem.

Work-based learning opportunities are provided to approximately 2,700 students with significant disabilities, ages 14 to 21, at over 370 community training locations throughout the five boroughs. The Job Developer at each school develops a variety of new job training sites and ensures that work class protocols are followed and that participating students receive whatever support is needed to optimize benefit from each work experience. Schools also work closely with vocational rehabilitation and adult service provider agencies to guarantee that students continue to be provided with any assistance that might be needed once they graduate from school and transition into supported or competitive employment.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the objectives of the program?

The objectives of work-based learning include mastery of the actual skills needed to do a particular job successfully as well as learning the “soft” universal work readiness skills for successful employment such as following directions, communicating and getting along with fellow employees and being on time for work, which are often a more significant indicators for success.

What is the responsibility of the participating business or organization?

Student trainees are always supervised and instructed by school staff. Stipends are provided for students through a variety of funding sources so that there is no cost to any participating business or organization. The only requirement from the participating business or organization is to provide student trainees with the opportunity to do the same work under the same conditions as any other employee. Work hours are flexible and negotiated individually to meet the needs of the school and the participating business or organization.

What kinds of work are students trained for?

Our students have a wide range of abilities and career interests. Areas of training currently include, but are not limited to: building maintenance, building trades, clerical, computer technology, food services, health aide, housekeeping, custodial/janitorial, retail, teaching assistant, building security, landscaping and grounds maintenance, child care, cosmetology, barbering, automobile maintenance and repair, bicycle maintenance and repair, library assistant, horticulture, pet care and grooming and data entry.

Is there any liability on the part of a participating business or organization?

As a self insured entity, the New York City Department of Education covers all students under a Hold-Harmless Resolution and Authorization for Agreements to Provide Internships and Vocational Education Work Experiences Programs with Corporations, Public, Private, Profit and Non-Profit Organizations for Special Education High School Students. An emergency plan is developed for every work site and shared with all supervisors and employees at that work site.

If I agree to participate, are there any consequences if I change my mind at a later time?

Participation is always voluntary. If at any time a trainee is not considered appropriate for a particular job, the teacher and/or job developer will work collaboratively with the business and organization to address any concerns. Sometimes a change in job responsibilities or additional direct training will resolve the problem. Any individual student can be removed from any training location at the request of a business or organization at any time. Additionally, a participating business or organization is free to completely withdraw their involvement from the program at any time.

What is the benefit for a participating business or organization?

Community training sites benefit from their participation in District 75's Community Work-Based Learning Programs in many ways. Each participating business or organization benefits from having an additional source of free part-time labor during the training period and a cadre of pre-trained candidates for potential future full time employment. Although participating businesses and organizations are under no obligation to hire any trainee, it is anticipated that many of our students will prove themselves to be reliable and capable candidates for future employment.