

Work-Based Learning: Applied Employment Skills

Students will participate in community-based job site experiences to develop transferable employment skills, workplace awareness, and appropriate work behaviors across a variety of real-world employment settings. Students participate in structured, community-based work experiences at a variety of job sites including food service, retail, trades, businesses, and recreation facilities. Experiences are designed to build transferable employment skills, workplace behaviors, and career awareness through real-world tasks and routines.

Core Vocational Skills

Workplace Readiness & Professional Behavior

- Demonstrate appropriate workplace behavior, including punctuality, task engagement, and respectful interaction with staff and customers
- Follow workplace rules, routines, and safety expectations specific to each job site
- Maintain appropriate hygiene and appearance based on job requirements
- Demonstrate task persistence and stamina during work activities

Task Completion & Job Skills

- Follow multi-step directions to complete assigned job tasks with increasing independence
- Use tools, materials, and equipment safely and appropriately
- Adapt to different job tasks across settings (food service, retail, skilled trades, recreation)
- Demonstrate quality control by checking work for accuracy and completeness

Communication & Social Skills in the Workplace

- Use appropriate verbal and non-verbal communication with supervisors, coworkers, and customers
- Ask for help, clarification, or feedback when needed
- Respond appropriately to workplace feedback and redirection
- Practice customer-service interactions in retail and food-service environments

Career Awareness & Exploration

- Identify different job roles and responsibilities at each community job site
- Compare similarities and differences between various work environments
- Demonstrate understanding of how different jobs contribute to the community
- Reflect on personal interests, strengths, and preferences related to future employment

Community Navigation & Independence

- Demonstrate safe behavior while traveling within the community
- Follow directions and routines in unfamiliar environments
- Practice time management related to travel, arrival, and task completion
- Build confidence navigating real-world work settings

Long-Term Outcomes

These experiences support students in developing skills related to:

- Competitive and supported employment
- Community participation
- Career readiness and transition planning
- Increased independence and self-advocacy