

Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation



Early Vocational Intervention for Students with Disabilities

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Youth On the Job Training



- DVR will reimburse a business for 100% of wages for up to 500 hours
- Students with disabilities can work those hours during the school year or on summer breaks
- Work experience while in school leads to self-sufficiency

Project Search



- For students in their last year of high school
- 9-12 month training program at a high status community business
- Five active sites in Wisconsin
- Two new sites will launch in September 2013
- 28 graduates in June 2012
- 32 students applied for the 2013-14 academic year

Let's Get to Work

- Grant partnership – DHS, DPI and the Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
- Grants in school districts in Dane, Dunn, Kewaunee, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Oneida, Ozaukee and Waukesha counties
- 37 participants from the first five schools in the grant.
 - Baseline March 2012 - 5 participants had paid jobs in the community.
 - Summer of 2012 - 10 of 33 participants had jobs.

Real Opportunity

- Connect students and their families to information:
 - Post-secondary and career options
 - Work incentives benefits counseling
 - Community activities
- Early paid internships while still in high school
- Person centered planning to identify interests, strengths skills
- Better transition training for teachers
- No entry for youth straight into segregated work settings
- Access to transportation to get to work

Results



- Business engagement
- Students are:
 - More independent
 - More confident
 - Better self-advocates
- Many more youth want to work
- Parents more educated about integrated employment and the transition process
- An employment outcome for students with disabilities becomes the focus for schools

Thank You!



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