One of the primary goals of secondary transition is to assist students in preparing for careers and employment. Research shows that paid employment while a student is still in school is the best indicator of paid employment as an adult (Fabian, 2007; Wagner, 2005).

Accessing early work experiences has been strongly linked with improved post-school employment outcomes (Benz, Lindstrom, & Yovanoff, 2000). Summer provides valuable opportunities for youth to gain important work-related skills and experience.

Why use the summer months for employment?
- Summer jobs are typical for all youth.
- Employers tend to have more job openings in the summer.
- Students have the opportunity to earn money.
- Students have the opportunity for earlier and increased work options.
- Students do not have to compete with academic demands, busy schedules.
- Engagement in the summer reduces learning loss and boosts self-esteem.
- Summer work is a positive step in career development and resume building.
- Work environments offer the potential for new social relationships/interactions.

How can your school district help?
- Ask if your high school or transition program has summer work options.
- If you are eligible for Extended School Year services, use this time and support to work on your IEP transition employment goals and objectives.
- Begin planning for a summer job early in the year with your school team to plan for funding and support while you are working.

What other agencies or programs offer help with summer jobs?
- If you are involved with the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, ask your counselor about using the summer for paid vocational assessment.
• Check with your local Work Force Development Board for Summer Youth Employment opportunities.
  www.cwdc.org/

How can your family help?
• By promoting the value and importance of work (i.e. chores, responsibilities)
• By being active in the planning process for summer work
• By providing support for a summer work schedule and transportation
• By providing important personal connections for potential employment.

For more information on Summer Employment:
  www.projectsummer.info/Project_Summer/Welcome.html