

Summer Employment Fact Sheet

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?

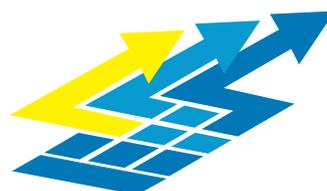
- Summer jobs are typical for all youth.
- Employers tend to have more job openings in the summer
- Students have the opportunity to earn money
- Students have the opportunity for earlier and increased work options.
- Students do not have to compete with academic demands, busy schedules.
- Engagement 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.



DDS Employment First Initiative
Real Work for Real Pay

- 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.projectssummer.info/Project_Summer/Welcome.html