



OPWDD's Employment Training Program

Information for Students

The Employment Training Program provides paid work experience to you as a student to build skills that will help you find a job after high school. The Employment Training Program works with schools that provide community work experiences for students attending their last two years of high school. It offers wages and other resources if you qualify.

How the Employment Training Program works:

- Taking part in work training while in high school can help you build skills that will increase your ability to get a job. You can learn about industry-specific tasks, technology, job expectations and work culture.
- OPWDD pays you minimum wage while you work at a local business and receive support from school workers or community provider agency staff. As a student trainee, you are considered a temporary New York State employee and are covered by Workers' Compensation and General Liability Insurance. The hours you can work per week depend on your school's work study program.
- An OPWDD Employment Training Program Supervisor at your school makes sure that you are learning job skills and the program is helping you prepare for employment.

The Employment Training Program can help you:

- Look at careers that you might find interesting
- Develop skills and job preferences
- Work on social skills that will help you succeed on the job and reach your career goals
- Gain experience as an employee that can help you find your next job
- Get paid to work while going to school and prepare for a job when you leave school

For more information:

- To learn more about Employment Training Program school partnerships contact your local Employment Training Program Supervisor.

- For general information, contact:

Employment.vocational.services@opwdd.ny.gov



**Office for People With
Developmental Disabilities**