

2423 - SCHOOL-TO-WORK PROGRAM CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WORK-BASED OPPORTUNITIES

Federal School-to-Work Opportunities Act of 1994

The School Board strongly supports the School-to-Work Opportunities Act career and technical education work-based learning opportunities as a vehicle means to help the District to prepare students more effectively for the world of work. Through this legislation, the District will be able to provide students with the following learning experiences needed to develop career-related knowledge, attitudes, and skills as well as life-long learning skills:

- A. School-based learning which includes career awareness, exploration, and counseling and the integration of academic and vocational learning.
- B. Work-based learning which provides students with a planned program of job training and/or various types of work experiences that are coordinated with school-based learning.
- C. Connecting activities which are designed to ensure that there is effective correlation and coordination between what students learn in school and what they learn at worksites.

The Superintendent is authorized to design and implement school-to-work activities and programs, both independently for this District and in cooperation with other districts, that create the three (3) types of learnings described above. In addition, s/he should take the steps necessary to implement Board Policy 9555—*Partnerships with Business* and also ensure that the District is participating actively in alliances, consortia, and/or committees that are coordinating school-to-work initiatives in this area.

The Superintendent's procedures for the development and implementation of school-to-work activities/programs need to provide for the following concerns of the Board:

- A. Proposals are submitted to obtain planning and/or implementation funds from the State and other sources, when available and appropriate.
- B. Informed parental consent will be obtained for any out-of-district activities such as career awareness trips, job shadowing, work experiences, and the like.
- C. All students are being provided with appropriate opportunities to participate in school-to-work activities.
- D. Each learning activity/program will have defined objectives with a clear correlation to career preparation and a means for assessing how well each student is achieving the objectives.
- E. All activities/programs will comply with associated Board policies and District procedures as well as applicable Federal/State laws.

As appropriate to a particular program initiative, the Superintendent may request waivers from the State on certain statutory or regulatory provisions that are contained in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act.

Unpaid students interning or getting workplace experience as part of an education program will be considered employees of the District for worker's compensation purposes.

The Superintendent shall keep the Board informed periodically on the progress of the District toward the goals of this important program.

Florida Work-Based Learning Opportunities

The Board shall provide that each student enrolled in grades 9 through 12 has access to at least one (1) work-based learning opportunity.

In accordance with Florida law, the term “work-based learning opportunity” means an interaction with industry or community professionals that occurs in a workplace setting, to the extent possible, or a simulated environment at an educational institution that allows firsthand experience with tasks required in a given career field, is aligned with curriculum and instruction, and is provided in partnership with an educational institution. A work-based learning opportunity must meet all of the following criteria:

- A. be developmentally appropriate.
- B. identify learning objectives for the term of experience.
- C. explore multiple aspects of an industry.
- D. develop workplace skills and competencies.
- E. assess performance.
- F. provide opportunities for work-based reflection.
- G. link to next steps in career planning and preparation in a student’s chosen career pathway.
- H. be provided in an equal and fair manner.
- I. be documented and reported in compliance with State and Federal labor laws.

A work-based learning opportunity should prioritize paid experiences, such as apprenticeships and preapprenticeship programs as those terms are defined in F.S. 446.021.