



Career & Technical Education Emphasis on Skills Development and Work-Based Learning (WBL)

The Rogers Public Schools Career & Technical Education (CTE) department offers programs and courses that are rich in skills development and relevant work-based learning (WBL) experiences, both of which are integral to preparing students for the transition to post-secondary studies, technical training programs, or entrance into the workforce upon high school graduation.

Beginning in the eighth grade, students have an opportunity to explore different career fields within the Career Development course and participate in Job Shadow experiences within a local business. The Job Shadow experience provides eighth grade students with an introduction to local businesses, the workplace environment, and skills that are required for different types of jobs.

Students in grades 11-12 have opportunities to take WBL courses including Internship, Career Practicum and Youth Apprenticeship. The Arkansas Division of Career & Technical Education (DCTE) defines WBL as, "a structured learning experience at the worksite for a specific timeframe that leads to a career path."

What are WBL Programs?

WBL programs contain three key

components: the alignment of classroom and workplace learning; application of academic, technical, and employability skills in a work setting; and support from classroom and worksite mentors." Below are brief definitions of each type of WBL experience.

Internship

Defined as experiential learning that can be paid or unpaid which integrates knowledge and theory learning in the classroom with practical application and skills development in a professional setting. Students will earn an industry recognized credential while in the program. Students in grades 10 - 12 are eligible to enroll in this course. It will not count toward concentrator status.

Career Practicum

Defined as unpaid work experience designed to assist students in grades 11 - 12 in their specific CTE career pathway where students earn an industry recognized credential in one of many high-demand occupations. A student must be at least 16 years of age. The student must currently be enrolled or have completed at least two courses in a chosen CTE career pathway area to be eligible for this course.

Youth Apprenticeship

Defined as paid work experience designed to assist students in grades 11 - 12 in their specific CTE career pathway where students receive a paycheck through work while earning an industry recognized credential in one of many high-demand occupations. A student must be at least 16 years of age. This course is eligible for an employer tax credit. The student must currently be enrolled or have completed at least two courses in a chosen CTE career pathway area to be eligible for this course.

Partnerships with Local Companies and Organizations Needed

The Rogers Public Schools has partnered with many local businesses and industries to provide WBL experiences for students over the past several years. The WBL experiences have provided valuable career and work-related experiences and employment opportunities for students following high school graduation. Businesses, industries and non-profit organizations interested in hosting students in the middle school Job Shadowing program and/or the high school WBL programs are encouraged to contact Dawn Stewart, Director of Career and Technical Education at (479) 636-3910.