

Workplace Experience

A workplace experience is an opportunity for a student to build work skills, work ethics, social skills and independence.

A student may participate in a workplace experience inside the school and progress to an out of school placement.

A successful placement starts with a student's interests coupled with their abilities.

School staff will try their best to find placements that match their student's interests with abilities, but some considerations such as transit, school staffing levels, grouping of students, need to be explored.

Families should discuss workplace experiences with their school staff in March of the previous school year, so all possible options are explored.

When determining a placement preference, families and school staff should explore the intension behind the preference. For example if a student would like a placement in library, try to determine why the student would like to work there. Student may like books, may prefer the quiet, may like to work independently and not with a group. Determining the reasons for the preferred placement may open more options for placements.

Students may be on the path to competitive work after leaving school, or students may be working towards volunteerism

Students will be required to complete an in-school pre-placement component before going to the workplace experience. During the placement, students will also complete an in-school reflective component, where students reflect on their experience, work on their resumes, continue to work on safety, social and skills related work.

Students may participate in placements in groups, or individually. Support at work will vary from program to program and depending on the age and ability of the student. Discuss these elements with the school staff.

Students who have competitive work as a goal should investigate Ontario Disability Support Program – Employment Support (ODSP), or Developmental Services Ontario (For more information, contact 1-888-941-1121) to find summer work programs.

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