

Partnering to Prepare the Future Workforce



Ways you can create value for young learners—and your industry

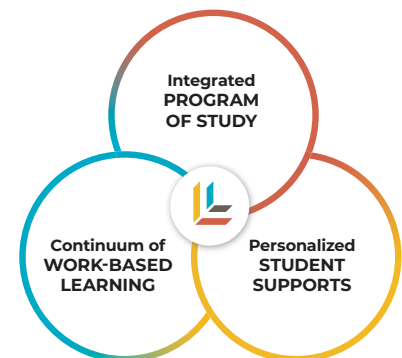


WORK-BASED LEARNING—like job shadows, guest speaking engagements, internships, and more—play a powerful role in boosting student success in the classroom and as part of the future workforce. Work-based learning opportunities help students make meaning of classroom learning, inspire academic and career choices, and develop essential professional skills. That's why these experiences are part of Linked Learning, a proven approach to education that combines rigorous academics with real-world industry experience.

Employers in high-growth fields choose to partner with local educators to deliver work-based learning experiences for a variety of reasons. In doing so, they:

- Build a local, diverse pipeline of skilled talent
- Ensure that school curricula are relevant to current and future marketplace needs
- Help students build the professional networks that fuel access to career opportunities
- Connect employees with young people in ways that bring new meaning to their workday
- Gain visibility with students, families, and neighbors who may be future partners or customers

Linked Learning prepares all students for college and career success. It combines an integrated program of study with work-based learning and personalized support, meeting students where they are while expanding their vision of what's possible. Young people gain the confidence and support they need to succeed in high school, and to graduate with the coursework, skills and confidence they need to thrive after high school.



A CONTINUUM OF POSSIBILITIES

By design, work-based learning experiences take shape along a continuum—offering students the opportunity to progress in their learning and skills, and employers a range of opportunities to engage at the level of commitment and interest right for them.

Example employer work-based learning activities by anticipated time commitment

	HOURS	DAYS	WEEKS
Career Exploration Build awareness of the variety of available careers, the role of postsecondary education, and tangible details such as typical job duties and skills needed, work environment, compensation range, growth potential, and trends in the field.	Employees serve as guest speakers and participate in career days (1–3 hours)	Host students in job shadowing and workplace tours (4–8 hours)	Serve as an industry advisor to assist teachers in including industry skills and competencies in projects (1–3 days)
Career Preparation Offer practical experience that develops knowledge and skills necessary for success in careers and postsecondary education.	Participate in resume preparation and mock interviews with students (1–2 hours)	Serve as a mentor or coach for students' career goals (7–15 hours)	Serve as an industry expert for students working on a project that utilizes real industry skills and tasks (1–4 weeks)
Career Training Train for employment and/or postsecondary education in a specific range of occupations.	Serve on a school or districts advisory board, relay information about industry skills (2–5 hours)	Host an intern, provide professional work experience to expose students to early career opportunities (4–8 weeks)	Host an apprentice, aligned to state or national standards (6–18 months)



Consider the thought starters in this progression and collaborate with your local school district to define your organization's involvement in work-based learning.