



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION LOCAL PLAN AREA

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San Luis Obispo County SELPA Policies and Procedures for the WorkAbility Program

Overview of the WorkAbility Program

Project WorkAbility is mandated by the California State Legislature through Ed Code Section 56470, which reads: “The Legislature finds and declares... (a) that an essential component of transition services developed and supported by the State Department of Education is Project WorkAbility... (d) WorkAbility project applications shall include, but are not limited to, the following elements: 1) recruitment, 2) assessment, 3) counseling, 4) pre-employment skills training, 5) vocational training, 6) student wages for try-out employment, 7) placement in unsubsidized employment, 8) other assistance with transition to a quality adult life, and 9) utilization of an interdisciplinary advisory committee to enhance project goals.”

The program is only available to students enrolled in public schools within San Luis Obispo County SELPA and have a current Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

Target Population Served

- Must be 16-21 years of age with a current IEP and ITP indicating vocational and transitional goals
- Must be a high school Junior or Senior
- Priority is given to previousWA1 students, Seniors and students preparing to exit the public school system

Student Referral Process

- Special education staff, counselors, administrators, students, and parents refer students to the WA1 Program based on the student’s ability to meet program guidelines and their willingness to participate in competitive employment. The Job Placement Specialist collaborates with special education staff to determine the student’s priority for vocational education services.

Priority Criteria (after referral)

- Student is able to start work immediately
- Business Partners match student’s skills
- Work availability is not limited due to other activities

Prerequisites for Participation

- Clear Discipline Records
- Excellent attendance in school and passing grade in all classes
- Positive attitude toward employment
- Willingness to participate in employment preparation sessions
- Prompt completion of all necessary forms
- Cooperation with job developer and employer
- Ability to participate in competitive employment

- Appropriate behavior and hygiene for work and community settings
- If under 18, eligible for a work permit
- Valid Social Security number

Student Selection Process

- Students will be served on a first come, first served basis as funding allows
- Preference will be given to previous WA1 students
- Job placements are completed by WorkAbility staff based on individual interviews and how well the student meets the prerequisites above.

WA1 has a limited number of slots in San Luis Obispo County. Any student who is unable to be served will be prioritized for the subsequent school year. The Job Placement Specialist will contact the student the next year to see if the student is still interested in the WA1 program.

Subsidized Paid Placements

- Meet all criteria for participation
- Must be able to work independently after training period
- Subsidized wages are limited to 75 hours per student
- Limited number of paid placements per school site
- Good citizenship and attendance

WA1 builds partnerships with local businesses and community services to provide students with volunteer and paid employment experiences. Part of these partnerships may include a subsidized student work experience (i.e. the student is paid by WA1 for the work with a local business). These arrangements are made through collaboration efforts between local business, students and the JPS. Collaboration between the students, WA1 specialist, and other relevant staff are used to determine a suitable and meaningful work experience. Subsidized hours and length of work experience are determined by the WA1 specialist, as grant funding is available.