

What is WorkAbility I?

The WorkAbility I (WAI) program is a career awareness, exploration, and training program for special education students ages 14 to 22 in middle school, secondary education, and young adult programs.

WAI provides students with opportunities to participate in classroom career speaker presentations, job shadowing, industry tours, and career fairs.

Career awareness and exploration is also part of the classroom curriculum for WAI students. Students identify their interests, abilities, and transferable skills. They are taught job search, readiness and retention skills, and how to meet employer expectations.

WAI provides paid job training opportunities for students 16 years and older at local businesses who participate as job training sites. WAI students and job training site personnel receive ongoing support and guidance from WAI vocational staff.

WAI is funded by a grant from the California Department of Education.

How Businesses Participate in WorkAbility I

Businesses can participate in the Yuba County WorkAbility I program in a number of ways.

1. Job Training Site

Participate as a training site by:

- ✓ Providing a job description and identifying essential job functions for the training position.
- ✓ Interviewing and accepting a student for job training at your business.
- ✓ Designating an employee in the work area as a contact person for the trainee and the WAI staff.
- ✓ Providing the student with a challenging training opportunity with well defined employer expectations.

2. Classroom Career Speaker

- ✓ The employer or a designated employee provides information about a business, career, or specific position in a classroom setting.

3. Job Shadowing Opportunities

- ✓ A business provides an opportunity for students to observe or “shadow” a designated employee performing the job duties of a specific career or position within the company.

4. Industry Tours

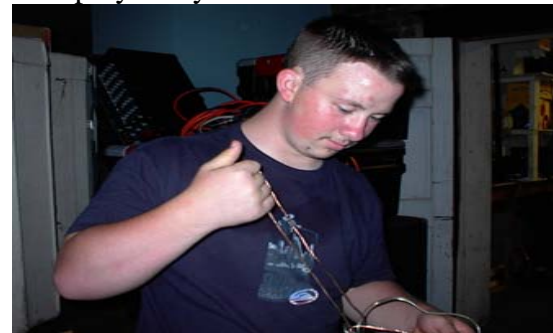
- ✓ An industry tour is like a field trip to your business. The tour gives the class an overview of the industry/business and spotlights the training and skills necessary in the different positions that are needed to conduct business in that particular industry.

Benefits to Businesses



Benefits include:

- Job-ready trainees, 15 years and older, who are anxious to learn and work.
- Student trainee’s interests and skills are matched to the training site’s needs.
- No cost to the training site to participate in the WAI program.
- Training wages paid by WorkAbility I.
- Workers’ Compensation insurance paid for and provided by Yuba County Office of Education.
- On-going support services to students and employers by the WAI staff.



WorkAbility I Services We Provide

The Yuba County Office of Education WorkAbility I program provides participating students with:

- Evaluation of interests, abilities, and aptitudes
- Job readiness training
- Placement assistance and follow-up
- Subsidized training wages
- Workers’ compensation coverage
- On-going support services to student and employer
- Training to upgrade skills, if appropriate



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