

WORK BASED LEARNING

Proposal to add new program to CCS Online in Fall, 2022

We would like the board's approval to add a Work-Based Learning (WBL) component to the online program offerings. We have a staff member who sought training to get the WBL endorsement, which is expected in June 2022. This individual is a full-time special education teacher with CCS online, so to launch this program we would shift him to be .5 FTE Special Education Teacher, .5 FTE Work-Based Learning Coordinator. **This will require us to hire an additional .5 FTE Special Education teacher.**

Why Work-Based Learning - we are repeatedly asked by students and families about whether we offer a program like this. Many of our students work, and this would give them the opportunity to further develop their work skills as well as earn high school elective credits for their work experience. We would get program approval from MDE to be listed as a WBL-endorsed school (they have already indicated that they would approve us this year since our teacher is working on the endorsement).

What is Work-Based Learning – WBL gives students an opportunity to apply what they're learning in the classroom with hands-on experiences in real-world job applications.

Benefit of Work-Based Learning - WBL connects classroom learning to the real world; gives students opportunities to practice skills in real-world scenarios; helps students develop soft skills, gives students a chance to observe professionals in action, and helps students network with potential employers.

Role of the Work-Based Learning Coordinator - The WBL Coordinator combines and coordinates efforts of many individuals, assuring that work-based learning experiences effectively and efficiently help students develop knowledge, skills, attitudes, and work habits so they can move successfully into the world of work. The functions and responsibilities of the WBL Coordinator include program planning, development, and evaluation; related-class instruction; on-the-job instruction and coordination; guidance and advice; program administration and management; and community and public relations.

The program consists of two formal courses in addition to the on-the-job work experience:

Work Seminar - This course is designed to assist students in making the transition from school to work. It emphasizes self-awareness, social development, work adjustment, and employability skills training. Curriculum is designed so students attain the learner outcomes necessary for success in the world of work utilizing group paced and individualized approaches. Students will learn habits and behaviors related to job search and work including communication strategies. Students will investigate and evaluate careers in relation to life goals, personal attributes, and daily living skills. Students will apply principles of personal and family resource management and informed decision-making skills.

Work Experience - This course provides students with opportunities to apply the skills and knowledge learned in previous Work Seminar/CTE and general education courses within a professional work environment in a field related to their career interests. Students interact with industry professionals to develop postsecondary and career readiness knowledge and skills. Goals are set cooperatively by the student, teacher, employer and students.