

State and Federal Fact Sheet

Work Experience

U. S. Department of Labor
New York State Education Department

US DOL

From the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Final Rule

681.600 What are work experiences?

(a) Work experiences are planned, structured learning experiences that take place in a workplace for a limited period of time. Work experience may be paid or unpaid, as appropriate. A work experience may take place in the private for-profit sector, the non-profit sector, or the public sector. Labor standards apply in any work experience where an employee/employer relationship, as defined by the Fair Labor Standards Act or applicable State law, exists. Consistent with § 680.840 of this chapter, funds provided for work experiences may not be used to directly or indirectly aid in the filling of a job opening that is vacant because the former occupant is on strike, or is being locked out in the course of a labor dispute, or the filling of which is otherwise an issue in a labor dispute involving a work stoppage. Work experiences provide the youth participant with opportunities for career exploration and skill development.

(b) Work experiences must include academic and occupational education. The educational component may occur concurrently or sequentially with the work experience. Further academic and occupational education may occur inside or outside the work site.

(c) The types of work experiences include the following categories:

- (1) Summer employment opportunities and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year;
- (2) Pre-apprenticeship programs;
- (3) Internships and job shadowing; and
- (4) On the job training (OJT) as defined in WIOA sec 3(44) and 680.700 of Final Rule

New York State Education Department

Work Experience Programs

Cooperative Career & Technical Education Work Experience Program(CO-OP)

The Cooperative Career & Technical Education Work Experience Program is a work-based learning program for youth and young adults age 16 and above, consisting of 150 to 600 hours of paid, supervised Work Experience, supported by related instruction in a specific career and technical discipline. Youth and young adults may earn ½ to 2 units of credit towards a CTE sequence, depending upon the specific sequence. This program must be registered with the New York State Education Department, and must be coordinated by a CTE teacher who possesses an extension as a Diversified Co-op Coordinator or as a Coordinator of Work-Based Learning Programs for Career Development.

General Education Work Experience Program (GEWEP)

The General Education Work Experience Program is a Work-Based Learning option for non-CTE youth and young adults, age 16 and above. The program consists of 150-600 hours of paid, supervised work experience, supported by the equivalent of at least one classroom period per week of related instruction. Youth and young adults typically earn ½ to 2 units of high school credit. This program must be registered with the New York State Education Department; it may be coordinated by any teacher or guidance counselor certified at the secondary level who possesses an extension as Coordinator of Work-Based Learning Programs for Career Exploration.

Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP)

The Work Experience and Career Exploration Program (WECEP) is a Work-Based Learning initiative sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and the New York State Education Department. It's similar in design and operation to the General Education Work Experience Program, but designed specifically for at-risk youth ages 14-15, who typically earn ½ to 1 unit of high school credit. This program must be registered with the New York State Education Department; it may be coordinated by any teacher or guidance counselor certified at the secondary level who possesses an extension as Coordinator of Work-Based Learning Program.