



TEXAS REGIONAL PATHWAYS NETWORK

KEY COMPONENT

Continuum of Work-Based Learning Experiences

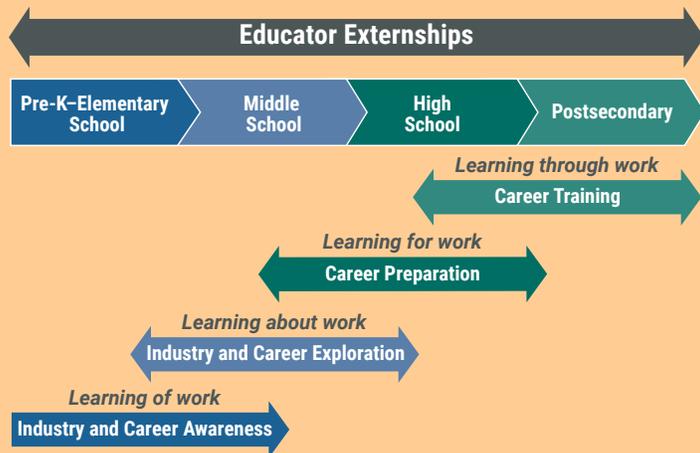


What It Is

- Work-based learning is a continuum of intentional activities and experiences—such as mock interviews, job shadowing, internships, practicum experiences, and other capstone experiences—designed to expand the boundaries of the class-room and prepare students for future career opportunities. Activities and experiences begin as early as pre-kindergarten and continue through postsecondary education.
- Work-based learning provides opportunities for students to apply academic and technical knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in a realistic setting, engage with business and industry professionals, explore and experience potential career options, and develop and practice essential employability skills.

Why It Matters

- Students gain real-world work experience and valuable technical and employability skills while learning about career options.
- Employers build a talent pipeline, and many report that they benefit from students' knowledge of technology, creativity, and innovative ideas.



What It Looks Like

- All students in the pathway participate in a structured, sequenced continuum of work-based learning experiences aligned with the industry focus of the pathway.
- Students gain technical and employability skills through work-based learning experiences that are aligned with classroom learning.
- Logistics related to work-based learning are managed by an intermediary organization.

Sample State Initiatives that Support Work-Based Learning

- Talent Connection
- Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program
- Skills Development Fund
- Texas Internship Challenge
- Apprenticeship Texas Expansion Grants
- Summer Earn and Learn

Stakeholder Roles

- **Secondary and postsecondary educators, employers, and intermediaries** collaboratively design a work-based learning continuum.
- **Secondary and postsecondary educators** prepare students to participate in work-based learning and connect it to classroom learning.
- **Employers** provide opportunities for young people to enter workplaces and work with industry professionals.
- **Intermediaries** manage all logistics, including brokering and aggregating work-based learning opportunities across the region, developing job descriptions, managing student placement, supporting employers in addressing questions related to legal and liability concerns, executing agreements between employers and schools, and developing curricula and assessments in partnership with educators.

