

Work-Based Learning

What is work-based learning (WBL)?

WBL is a critical component of a student's pathway and encompasses activities that provide students with real-life or simulated work experiences.

Why is WBL important?

WBL provides students with real-life work experiences where they can apply and develop their academic, technical, and professional skills.

What does work-based learning look like?

Internship	A position for a student or trainee to work in an organization, sometimes without pay, to gain work experience, satisfy requirements for a credential, and/or gain course credit.
Apprenticeship	Highly formal job training experience that involves studying with a master of the trade on the job.
Service Learning Project	A program or project which combines community service with an outside organization with a structured opportunity for reflection about that service, emphasizing the connections between service experiences and academic learning.
School-based Enterprise	Students produce and sell goods or services in the school and learn about business skills and entrepreneurship. This may be part of an entrepreneurship course, and a business professional may serve as a mentor and advisor for the enterprise.
Industry Project	Individual, group, or class-wide projects in which students address a real-world, industry-focused question or problem with the guidance of industry professionals.

What does high-quality work-based learning look like?

Rigorous	Skill-based and tied to measurable outcomes
Relevant	Connected to a student's interests and to the real world of work
Reflective	Engages the student in reflection and analysis
Interactive	Provides multiple and extended opportunities for students to interact with industry professionals
Integrated	Connected with the student's school-based curriculum and for academic credit