

What is Project SEARCH?

The Project SEARCH Transition Program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. Project SEARCH is a **non-paid** internship experience.

Where will the program take place?

The programs offered in Oakland County are housed at Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital and Troy Beaumont Hospital.

Who is eligible to participate?

Students who are 18 years or older who have the following: an IEP, independent personal care to include personal hygiene, grooming and daily living skills, able to take direction and adjust behavior as necessary, communicate effectively, obtain transportation to Project SEARCH, willing to participate and understand the **work is unpaid**, maintain appropriate social and behavior skills, pass all background checks and business site requirements such as all immunizations are current, including COVID vaccines and flu shot. The student must desire and plan to be employed at the conclusion of Project SEARCH.

What are the goals of Project SEARCH?

The goal for each student intern is competitive employment. The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help young adults with disabilities to make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The Project SEARCH model involves an extensive period of training and career exploration, innovative adaptations, long-term skills training, and continuous feedback from instructors, skills trainers, and employers. As a result, at the completion of the training program, students with significant intellectual disabilities have the opportunity to be employed in non-traditional, complex and rewarding jobs.

Program Contacts:

West Bloomfield
Leah Mattise

Project SEARCH Instructor
Henry Ford West Bloomfield
Hospital
leah.mattise@wbsd.org
(248) 882-0030

Renee Samuels
Transition Coordinator
West Bloomfield Schools
renee.samuels@wbsd.org
(248) 520-8098

Troy

Carolyn Van Noord
Project SEARCH Instructor
Troy Beaumont Hospital
cvannoord@troy.k12.mi.us
(248)964-8178

Sheila Gannon
Transition Coordinator
Troy Schools
sgannon@troy.k12.mi.us
(248) 823-2828



**A program for transition
students in Oakland County!**



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What does it mean to be a Project SEARCH intern?

An intern is a student who has been accepted into the Project SEARCH Program, has a strong desire to work, has no behavioral/attendance concerns and is eager to gain independent employment through work experiences. Students in Project SEARCH will be referred to as interns by sponsoring parties as well as coworkers. They will be expected to participate in the hospital’s work culture and do their best to uphold its vision and mission while abiding by all policies/procedures.

If a student is interested in Project SEARCH, what should the student do?

Students should contact their high school special education teacher, transition coordinator or district’s special education director. They will provide you with information. Students should also open a case with Michigan Rehabilitation Services and begin an application for SSI benefits if they have not started this process, as well as OCHN – Oakland Community Health Network

Why is this considered as student’s last year of school?

The goal of Project SEARCH is to provide interns with marketable and transferrable skills that lead to competitive employment in an integrated setting so the intern will be going to work.

What is the Project SEARCH curriculum?

In the Project SEARCH classroom, lessons focus on the following areas: team building, workplace safety, technology, self-advocacy, maintaining employment, financial literacy, health & wellness, and preparing for employment.

Key Dates:	
November, Meeting December or January	Information- Open House Program Overview
March	Application Meeting -Application/Interview Process
April/May	Selection Interviews Letters of Acceptance Emailed
May	New Intern Orientation
July/August	Mobility Training
August/Sept.	IEP / Program follows district calendar
June	Graduation



Preparing young people with significant disabilities for success in integrated, competitive employment.

Defining employment in an integrated setting is: working alongside co-workers with and without disabilities:

- Year-round work (not seasonal employment)
- 16 hours/week or more
- Minimum wage or higher

Each Project SEARCH program site has a licensing agreement signed with Project SEARCH Cincinnati through Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

What school calendar schedule will student interns follow with Project SEARCH?

Interns participating in the program will follow the West Bloomfield School District or Troy School District school year calendar.

How do student interns get to Project SEARCH each day?

Interns are responsible for their own transportation either through personal or public transportation. Project SEARCH does not provide transportation.

Will my student be hired by the hospital?

The hospital has the option of hiring any one of the interns at any time. If a student intern is not hired by the hospital, a job developer will help the student intern look for employment in their community.

What departments in the hospital have taken on a student intern?

Surgery Recycling, Clerical, Kitchen, Patient Transportation, Endoscopy, Cafeteria, Environmental Services, Labor & Delivery, Room Service, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Radiology, Patient Registration, Cardiopulmonary Rehab, and Dialysis Services. This list can change at any moment!

What do Project SEARCH student interns wear?

Parents are expected to purchase uniform shirts and a uniform jacket at the New Intern Orientation in May. In addition, interns are to wear non-denim black pants at the Henry Ford site, and khaki pants at the Troy site, with a belt, black shoes and socks.

