

## **A California Transition Program an Overview of the WorkAbility Program**

Oxnard Union High School District in coordination with Ventura County SELPA uses funding from the California Department of Education for WorkAbility to provide comprehensive pre-employment skills training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education who are making the transition from school to work, independent living, and postsecondary education or training. Program services are tailored to individual student needs, abilities, and interests.

There are no minimum hours, and services may range from brief training in pre-employment skills or coaching in unsubsidized employment to subsidization of wages in try-out employment.



## **WorkAbility I (WAI)**

### **Mission of WAI**

The mission of WAI is to promote the involvement of key stakeholders including students, families, educators, employers and other agencies in planning and implementing an array of services that will culminate in successful student transition to competitive integrated employment (CIE), lifelong learning, and quality of life.

### **Inter-Agency Partnerships**

- Employment Development Department (EDD)
- State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR)
- Tri-Counties Regional Center
- Ventura County SELPA

Director of Special Education: Dr. Darlene Garcia

Coordinator of Special Education : Merv VanAuker

## Community

Oxnard Union High School District has formed community partnerships with businesses from small local non-profits to national chains to provide youth with disabilities with opportunity to complete their secondary education while obtaining marketable job skills.

OUHSD is always looking to partner up with local businesses that can support and provide meaningful employment training opportunities for youth with disabilities. Increasing community partnerships expands opportunities for students to participate, experience, and learn job skills in a variety of employment sectors.

Some past and present community partners include.

- Walgreens
- Ventura County Animal Shelter
- Goodwill of Ventura
- The Marriott

WorkAbility subsidizes student wages during the placement period and OUHSD provided workplace liability coverage for each student.

## Schools

Students from Adolfo Camarillo, Adult School, Anacapa Adult Transition Program, Channel Islands, Condor, Frontier, Hueneme, Oxnard, Oxnard Middle College, Pacifica, Rancho Campana, and Rio Mesa with a current IEP are eligible to participate in WorkAbility Programs.

School Based Interdisciplinary collaboration among departments, services, and programs within a school to support the following domains

- **Career/Vocational Assessment**
- **Career Counseling and Guidance**
- **Youth Development and Leadership**
- **Curriculum Integration of Work-Readiness Skills**
- **Career/Transition Portfolio**
- **Vocational/Career Technical Classes**
- **Independent Living/Functional Skills**

## Work-Based Learning Opportunities

Connecting skills learned in the classroom to practical work site learning experiences include:

- **Career Awareness Activities**
- **Career Exploration Activities**
  - Job Shadows
  - School-Based Project/Business
  - Service Learning
- **Career Preparation**
  - Internships
  - Apprenticeship
  - Community Classroom
  - Community-Based Vocational Instruction
  - Preparation for the Work Site
  - Job Search
  - Placement Services
  - Employment
  - Job Retention
  - Work Site Mentor
  - Job Coach
  - Mobility Training
  - Work-Based Follow Along
  - Follow-up