WHAT WE OFFER

Throughout the year, interns participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Project SEARCH instruction is designed around seven major focus areas:

1. Working responsibly
2. Communicating effectively with or without accommodations
3. Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
4. Planning and managing employment
5. Applying technology
6. Developing advocacy skills
7. Demonstrating independent community travel skills

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Students are referred to the program through their school district. The students and families complete and submit the application by a predetermined deadline in February or March. Space is limited for students applying and the selection is carried out by members of the Project SEARCH Team. The committee reviews the application and schedules interviews.

2. An Open House is held annually for potential students, family members, the community, and interested businesses. It provides an opportunity to learn about the project site, meet the Project SEARCH staff and interns, and discuss program goals.

3. All interested students are encouraged to request an Application packet from their District Special Education Director or by contacting **Doreen Milot at dlm@iu29.org or 570-544-9131 ext. 1258.**

Project | SEARCH®

An internship program that transitions young adults with mild to moderate disabilities into competitive employment through a partnership with Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 (IU29).

Our Partners:

Lehigh Valley Hospital–Schuylkill
part of Jefferson Health

Goodwill Keystone Area

pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

SAM
Service Access & Management, Inc.
In Partnership with Schuylkill County MH/DS

Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29





PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Project SEARCH is a unique one-year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace & provides real life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills.

The transition program is for interns who are:

- in their last year of school eligibility;
- interested in working in a business setting;
- working to achieve competitive employment; and
- willing to utilize public transportation.

All interns are involved with OVR and ODP. Agencies meet with Project SEARCH staff, family, and interns throughout the year to provide vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance along with various support services as required.

WORK ROTATIONS

Interns build communication and problem-solving skills, as well as job specific skills, through work rotations. These are unpaid internships. Work rotations are approximately 10 weeks long, totaling three rotations per intern by the end of the program. Worksites are assigned based on the intern's previous work experience, interests, preferences, and assessments. Job Coaches, Mentors, and other department staff collaborate to provide support for the intern. The goal is to have supports fade out as the intern gains independence.

PROJECT SEARCH TEAM

Team members may include: full-time teacher, job trainer, supervisor, school psychologist, school social worker, special education consultant, LVHN Volunteer Services, LVHN Supervisor, LVHN Mentor, OVR, and SAM, Inc.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The following guidelines for eligibility are **required** for Project SEARCH candidates:

School Status:

- At least 18 years of age
- Has not graduated from high school
- Is on an IEP
- Has an identified intellectual or developmental disability
- Has finished their high school program or credits needed to graduate
- Has agreed that Project SEARCH will be their last year of school
- Has the goal of working at the end of the Program

Agency Services:

- Would benefit from personalized support in an intensive year of career development internship experience
  - Is eligible for OVR (must open case)
  - Is eligible for SAM, Inc. (if required)

Personal Skills:

- Accepts feedback and can change behavior with teaching
- Will be able to follow the rules of the host business
- Will complete travel training to ensure they are able to get to/from and around host business by themselves, and will use public transportation when available
- Is committed to working in the community at the end of the program

ANY QUESTIONS: CONTACT DOREEN MILOT AT DLM@IU29.ORG OR 570-544-9131 EXT. 1258