



EXCEPTIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED ONLY TO DPS STUDENTS:



THE PREP ACADEMY

Partnership with Richland Community College, students earn high school diploma + Associate's Degree in four years, for FREE.



CO-OP OPPORTUNITIES

PAID opportunities for students to build skills in preparation for long-term careers. DPS currently offers paid co-ops through Caterpillar, Memorial Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, and DPS IT and Maintenance departments.



INSPIRED FUTURES INTERNSHIPS

Our internship program connects students with real-life, hands-on experiences. DPS is currently partnered with 20+ local businesses to offer internship opportunities.



DPS EXTENDED DAY

FREE before and after school program offered at 13 sites across the district, giving parents flexibility to get kids to and from school, plus academic and physical enrichment.



Decatur Public Schools' Department of Innovative Programs works to ensure all DPS students have access to unique and relevant learning experiences. Our team works to develop and sustain meaningful learning opportunities and partnerships that connect our students to our community, both inside and outside of the classroom.

LEARN MORE:

217.362.3012

www.dps61.org/innovativeprograms

Student's school counselor

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Course in partnership with North America's Building Trades Unions — DPS junior and senior students experience a comprehensive pre-apprenticeship readiness program with a goal of allowing students to gain access to Building Trades' registered programs.

SKILLED TRADES

Pre-apprenticeship program that successfully prepares students to transition to labor registered apprenticeships in the trades post-graduation.

PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Partnership with Workforce Investment Solutions, offering DPS students the opportunity to earn apprenticeships right after high school. A pre-apprenticeship program can successfully prepare seniors to transition to a Department of Labor registered apprenticeship in the trades.

WORKFORCE PREP

360-hour training program in partnership with Richland Community College's EnRich program — students learn basic manufacturing, job readiness and essential skills, and graduate with nationally-recognized certificates.

TEACHER PREP & CLUB

Students interested in becoming teachers can explore the education field through weekly club meetings, plus a CTE grant partnership with Richland Community College that provides classroom coursework from EdRising and education field exploration.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Partnership with Richland Community College that allows DPS to offer dual credit classes at the high schools, giving students access to college credit.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Connecting students to our community through partnerships that help our students become better informed and engaged citizens


CAREER & LIFE SKILLS EXPOSURE OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Healthcare Day:** Yearly career exposure event hosted by Richland Community College at healthcare agencies in Macon County
- **Manufacturing Day:** Yearly event held during Manufacturing Week to expose students to careers in manufacturing
- **Building Trades Day:** Yearly event held in Springfield in November showcasing union laborers and hands-on demos
- **College & Career Week:** First held in April 2022 at all DPS schools, week-long celebration of college and career readiness with daily themes and events
 - **Job Expos:** Held at each high school to connect students with part-time, summer, and full-time opportunities
 - **Financial Literacy:** Partnerships with local financial institutions to prepare students for money management post high school
 - **Career Signing Day:** Yearly event to celebrate students for completion of co-op and pre-apprenticeship programs, many of whom are offered full-time positions post-graduation

COLLEGE & COMPANY VISITS

Exposing students to post-graduation preparedness opportunities through college and university tours and company visits

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