



Work-Based Learning Client-Connected Project Criteria Guide



Step 1: Definition and Value

Client-Connected Projects are authentic problems which students solve in collaboration with professionals from industry, nonprofit, or community-based organizations.

Client-Connected Projects provide value for...

CLIENT/EMPLOYER	STUDENTS	EDUCATORS
• Access to emerging talent • Increased awareness of client organization • Leadership development opportunity for client/employer liaison	• Authentic project work • Increase in professional network • School credit in real-world setting • Potential stepping stone for future internship	• Authentic project prompts/problems • Exposure to industry trends and expectations

Step 2: MVA Criteria/Checklist for Projects

Client-Connected Projects are MVA-level experiences when they are the following below:

- ☐ Sourced (at least sponsored) by the client.
- ☐ Supplementary to students' professional network.
- ☐ Resume'- worthy (meaningful experience)
- ☐ At least 24 hours' worth of work, with at least 4 hours engaged feedback from clients (i.e., students can receive feedback through emails, shared documents, Microsoft teams, face-to-face, etc.)
- ☐ Student Showcase

Step 3: Define Roles and Responsibilities

Students	Educator
• Learners-Will do the work. • Responsible for self-management.	• Will "guide/coach the daily work". • Responsible for helping students manage the project.
Client • Will initiate/validate and provide feedback to the work. • Responsible for initiating project prompt and evaluating performance.	

Step 4: Project Content

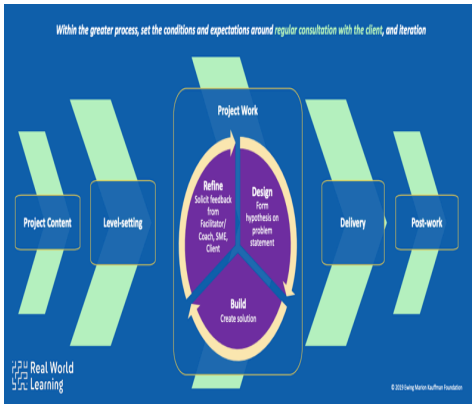
- ☐ Evaluate Work
 - Does it align to content/appropriate for enrichment experiences?)
- ☐ Set Appropriate/Attainable Goals
 - What would make the client project experience a success for the employer?
 - Which critical skills can be developed throughout this project?
- ☐ Set Project Expectations
 - Project Parameters (Problem statement, student goals, engagement, reflection, finished project)



Step 5: Project Process

Teachers will go through a Design Thinking Professional Development with the District Instructional Coordinators.

Step 6: Student Approach



Work-Based Learning Client-Connected Project Examples



☐ Create Timeline

How to get started:

1. Check criteria on the front page to see if the project qualifies as a Client-Connected Project.
2. Your facilitator will assist with providing a connection/formal introduction with the Client/Employer Liaison to begin the project and/or aligning to find a client/employer liaison.
3. Your District Instructional Coordinator will work with you regarding scheduling the Design Thinking Professional Development.

To assist with planning, below are few examples:

Holland 1916, CEO Mike Stradinger Marketing students will be working with their business teacher to redesign, create, and develop Holland 1916 (Manufacturing Solutions) website (Fall 2021) Students will receive continuous feedback as their final product will be displayed this school year.	Local Law Enforcement Agencies Students can work alongside local law enforcement agencies to provide hands-on junior academy experiences. Students can develop reports from their “Day in the Life” opportunity (Length of opportunity-semester course).	Local Restaurants Students can reformat and refine a restaurants’ staff handbook. Students can research the traffic flow and location for a new restaurant opening in the Northland area.
World Builders Academy, Panela Leung Students can have the opportunity to develop a design for interactive technology-Ed Tech for their company.	Local Insurance Companies Students have the opportunity to develop employee retention plans for small businesses needing support before, during, and after the pandemic. How to calculate COVID funds for sustainability?	Assisted Transportation Services, Inc., Chris Hane Students could improve safety and leverage technology. Assistant Transportation is interested in upgrading their in-vehicle camera system to a 'smart camera' system and believe a student or students could help explore the best options and make a presentation regarding the best system for their company.

