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ABSTRACT

Presented is a handbook on the Merrill Area (Wisconsin) Public Schools program for providing work experience for mentally handicapped and other special education students in high school. Brief sections cover information on the following program areas: objectives (such as to assist the student in making a job choice), cooperation with and services provided by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), course of study, enrollment of student in DVR, pupil qualification, the teacher-counselor role, supervision of work experience, work permits, grading policies, compensation, criteria for selecting community employers (such as facilities which offer a proper learning opportunity), transportation, psychological services, sheltered workshops (an evaluation of vocational skills and a program for work adjustment), and followup services. Appended are forms for a student survey, student evaluation by employer, work expreience report, work permit, application for subminimum wage license, and application for vocational rehabilitation. (SB)

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Work Experience Progam

Merrill Area Public Schools Mcrrill, Wisconsin

CONTENTS

Introduction 2
Objectives 3,
Agreement With D.V.R 4
Course of Study 6
Enrollment of Students in D.V.R 7
Pupil Qualifications 8
Teacher - Counselor 8
Supervision of Work Experience 9
Work Permits 10
Grading Policies 10
Compensation 11
Selection of Community Employers 12
Transportation 7 - 7 12
Psychological Services 13
Sheltered Workshop 13
Follow-Up Services 14
Appendix 15

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INTRODUCTION

Work experience education is a method of providing assistance to pupils in solving the problems of selecting and preparing for a career. The field of work is a greater problem for Special Education students than for the average student in the school system. In addition to the learning disabilities encountered with the Special Education student, the school must also be concerned with the social and adaptive behavior of the pupil.

With a few exceptions, senior high school is the terminal education for these students. Therefore the Special Education curriculum is occupationally oriented. The "academic" part of the curriculum is functional and geared to everyday living. The purpose of the work experience program is to prepare the student for life. After graduation from high school the pupil should be prepared to actually pursue a job. The senior high school curriculum has been developed to provide the student with the skills necessary for working and living in today's society.

Work experience is a definite part of the course of study.

There is coordination of the work experiences with the classroom activities as well as close supervision of the students on the .

job.

Therefore, it might be stated that work experience education is supervised work in a real job situation with an occupationally oriented classroom setting.

_OBJECTIVES

The major objectives of the work experience program are to assist the student in making a job choice, to prepare the student for employment, to develop an understanding of the meaning of work and to make the transfer into the world of work. The program aftempts to provide the maximum amount of training and experience to Special Education students, so that their potentials for job adjustment can be enhanced and they can be given greater assurance of job adjustment. The general aim is to prepare the student for economic self-sufficiency.

Other objectives of the program include the following:

- 1. To develop the proper rapport with fellow workers.
- 2. To learn the proper relationship with the employer
- 3. To develop proper work habits
- 4. To develop-personality and poise
- 5. To learn to assume responsibility
- 6. To gain knowledge necessary for a permanent job
- 7. To develop a proper attitude toward work
- 8. To learn how to handle money
- 9. To develop proper safety habits
- 10. To learn to work to the best of ability
- 11. To learn to accept criticism
- 12. To understand the basic requirements for jobs within their capability.

AGREEMENT WITH DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The Merrill Area Public Schools in coordination with the Buy reau for Handicapped Children of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has entered into a formal joint agreement with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services for certain rehabilitation services for Special Education students. These services are not ordinarily usual and regularly available services of the Merrill School System. The total cost of these rehabilitation services are paid by State and Federal funds through D.V.R..

To provide a smooth transition for the student from the school to employment, DVR will provide, to the extent possible, the following services:

- 1. Purchase for the clients of this program, work experience and work adjustment training from community agencies qualified to provide such training. This work adjustment training may be obtained in a sheltered workshop, in a vocational school-job preparation program, or in an on-the-job training program.
- 2. Provide whatever additional case services are required by the clients eligible for the program. This may include one or more of the following services:
 - A. Medical examination.
 - B. Psychological services
 - C. Counseling and guidance services

- D. Medical and physical restoration services;
- E. Training, including courses in work experience and work adjustment
- F. Placement services
- G. Follow-up services after completion of the students schooling.

MERRILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OF STUDY

lst Year:

History (American)

Social Problems

English

Mathematics

Drivers Education

Physical Education

Industrial Arts (Boys)

Home Economics (Girls)

2nd Year:

Civics

Occupations

English

Mathematics '

Physical Education

Industrial Arts (Boys)

Home Economics (Girls).

. Work Experience

3rd Year:

Biology & Health .

Social Problems

English

Mathematics

Physical Education

Industrial Arts (Boys)

Home Economics (Girls) .

Work Experience

According to the capabilities and interests of the student, they may be programmed into regular high school courses. These include courses such as woodworking, metalworking, agriculture, art, typing, music, etc..

Part-time work experience is provided for pupils during the

second semester of the Junior year and both semesters of the Senior year. Part-time experience may range from one to four hours per school day, depending on the type of employment and the capability of the student.

During the second semester of the Senior year, some students may be programmed for full-time work experience. Criteria for eligibility for full-time employment would include the following:

- 1. Availability of job positions
- 2. Work attitude of the student
- 3. Reasonably high assurance of employment success.

The course work in Social Problems, Occupations, and Mathematics are occupationally oriented. The classroom work and on-thejob experiences are functionally integrated so that a total educational experience can be anticipated.

ENROLLMENT OF STUDENT IN D.V.R.

Each student is given the opportunity of becoming a client of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Parental consent is obtained (Appendix - Form 1A) and the pupil completes an application for D.V.R. services. (Appendix - Form DVR-1) All prospective students for the program are jointly screened by the Teacher-Counselor and the Rehabilitation-Counselor.

Each pupil must receive a physical examination by the doctor of his choice. The cost of the examination is paid by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. If some physical or medical

abnormality is found, the client may be eligible for restoration services. If no major abnormalities are found, the student may then be eligible for work experience employment.

PUPIL QUALIFICATIONS

In order to qualify for participation in the work experience education program, a student shall meet the following qualifications:

- 1. Be enrolled in the Senior High School Special Education classes.
- 2. Have attained second semester junior standing in high school.
- 3. Be a full-time pupil.
- 4. Have parent approval.
- 5. Have Teacher-Counselor approval.
- 6. Be a client of Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

TEACHER - COUNSELOR

The Teacher-Counselor in the Merrill Area Public Schools is the Senior High School Special Education teacher. The teacher is scheduled for one or two periods per school day to plan, to supervise, and to follow-up on the work experience program. The number of hours scheduled for counseling depends on the number of pupils in the work experience program.

The teacher is responsible for the following activities:

1. Classroom instruction

- 2. Parent conferences
- 3. D.V.R. Counselor-Teacher Counselor conferences
- 4. Employer interviews
- 5. Employee placement
- 6. Student counseling
- 7. Community/public relations
- 8. Work experience record keeping
- 9. Arrangement for transportation of students to place of employment
- 10. Follow-up of student employment.

SUPERVISION OF WORK EXPERIENCE

Both on and off campus work experience is given to Special Education students. On campus experience may include jobs such as kitchen helper, jankfor helper, etc.. Off campus placements are made in local public and business establishments. These jobs may include restaurant helper, factory worker, farm laborer, green house worker, etc.. An attempt is made to provide various placement opportunities for each pupil.

Students in off campus employment are under the management of their employer, but remain under the supervision of the Teacher-Counselor.

Periodic conferences with the employer are a part of the program. Each employer is contacted at least once per month. No definite schedule of employer visits is maintained since there are occa-

sional problems that may require immediate attention. Spot-checks of the pupils are made at more frequent intervals than the employer conferences. The Rehabilitation Counselor may also visit the employer occasionally.

At the end of each month the employer is requested to submit an evaluation form (Appendix - Form 1B) and a time report (Appendix - Form 1C) to the Teacher - Counselor. The information on these reports is shared with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

WORK PERMITS

Those Special Education Students who are not eighteen years of age are required to secure a work permit before any type of placement is made. Permit to work forms (Appendix Form ID) are used to simplify application and record keeping.

GRADING POLICIES

Students in the work experience program receive.letter grades based on their capability and achievement.

Students in this program are not considered for placement in class standing at graduation on the basis of class grades.

A two hour block of work experience each school day is considered equivalent to a one credit class toward high school graduation. Special education pupils completing the requirements for graduation receive a high school diploma.

COMPENSATION

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation may purchase work experience and work adjustment training from community agencies qualified to provide such training. The pupil is paid by the employer and the employer may be reimbursed by D.V.R..

The amount of pay is very flexible, so that the Teacher-Counselor may set the rate depending on training of the student. When less than a minimum hourly wage is paid, an application for waiver (Appendix Form CL-37) of the minimum wage is filed. These forms are filed through the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation office. However, some employers choose to pay at least the minimum wage rate. D.V.R. generally limits its payment to one dollar (\$1.00) per hour for a maximum of two hours per day.

Although, D.V.R. will buy these work training services from community agencies, most employers choose not to be reimbursed. The Teacher-Counselor has to know the employer and his desires. Merrill area agencies are encouraged to pay the wages without reimbursement. There generally is a more realistic work experience when the employen stands the cost. The "cheap labor" and "something for nothing" concepts under this arrangement are eliminated. Wages paid to the pupils also provide for realistic classroom lessons on money management. Compensation is also a motivator of high significance.

SELECTION OF COMMUNITY EMPLOYERS

The Teacher-Counselor is responsible for selecting and approving work experience stations. The following criteria are observed in selecting the station for the individual student:

- 1. That the station offer continuous employment for the duration the student is enrolled.
- 2. That the employer understands the educational objectives of the program.
- 3. That the employer has the facilities to offer a proper learning opportunity.
- 4. That the employer will complete the records on the student.
- 5. That the employer will provide adequate supervision for maximum benefit.
- 6. That working conditions will not endanger the health, safety, or morals of the pupil.
- 7. That the employer understand the legal requirements to be met for employment.

TRANSPORTATION

Occasionally work placement is with an employer that requires transportation of the student. Sometimes arrangements are made with the parents to provide the needed transportation. If the parents are unable to provide this service, the Merrill School System provides a small bus for a limited number of trips.

Transportation problems encountered is a consideration in selecting a work experience station.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

If the Teacher-Counselor and the Rehabilitation-Counselor feel that the student has a psychological problem that will interfere with his chances of being gainfully employed referral for psychological and psychiatric service is made. Generally private practitioners in Wausau and Marshfield have provided these services.

If the counselors feel that a Special Education student would benefit from a complete clinical and vocational evaluation, he may be referred to the Developmental Evaluation Center at Central Wisconsin Colony and Training School at Madison. This two to nine week evaluation includes a complete physical, social, psychological and vocational analysis.

The D.E.C. reports their findings and recommendations to the counselors. The findings are also discussed with the parents at the end of the evaluation.

Before any referral or evaluation is made, the parents of the student are consulted and their understanding and consent is obtained. Other than transportation, there is no cost to the parents. The cost of all psychological and psychiatric evaluations is paid by the D.V.R..

SHELTERED WORKSHOP

If the Teacher-Counselor and the Rehabilitation Counselor feel



that the student would benefit from a thorough job analysis evaluation, the may be referred to the Sheltered Workshop in Wausau.

The Sheltered Workshop provides a three-week evaluation which includes vocational skill tests, job sample tests, and achievement sts. If after these initial tests, the student is found to be capable of competitive employment, an attempt is made for employment in the community.

If the pupil is not capable of competitive employment, he is eligible for the work adjustment program at the Workshop. Work adjustment may continue from a few weeks to a year. If after the work adjustment program, the pupil is not placeable in competitive employment, placement is made in the extended employment program of the Workshop. Employment may continue here indefinitely.

Other than transportation, there is no cost to the parent.

FOLLOW-UP SERVICES

After graduation from high school, the Special Education student will continue to be a client of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Occupational follow-up services, as well as the other services, will continue to be provided as long as necessary.

APPENDIX

- 15 -

MERRILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SURVEY

Name of son or daughter
Type of work your son or daughter seems to be interested in.
Does your son or daughter plan to finish high school?
If not, what does he plan to do?.
Do you live in Merrill? If not, how many
miles from Merrill?
Doés your son or daughter ride the bus?
Does he or she have work planned for next summer?
If yes, what kind?
Does he or shee have a part-time job at the present time?
If yes, what kind?
Does the Merrill School System have your permission to place your
son or daughter on a job part-time during the school year?
During the summer?
Does the Merrill School System have your permission to give your
son or daughter a physical and dental examination?
Does the Merrill School System have your permission to refer your
son or daughter as a client of the Division of Vocational Rehabili
tation?
Does your son or daughter have a driver's license?

Form 1-A

18

Parent's Signature

MERRILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Employee

Date

" Employer	Ado	lress	Phone	_	
	•		•		
	Always	Usually	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Does he follow directions?					
Does he accept constructive criticism?				-	
boes he get along with his employer?					
Does he get along with co-workers?					
Does he see things to be done?					
Does he like his work?	· «				
Is he a steady worker?	`		-	¥.	
Can he work by himself?				, , ,	
Does he take care of equipment?	# F				
Is his work neat?	,))				
Does he observe rules?					
Is he a clock watcher?	\.	•			В
Is he courteous?		, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			
Is the quality of his work satisfactory?	-	,			
Is he honest?			× , -		
Is he punctual?			,		
Does he dress properly?			1 3	1 1	
In your opinion, does this employee have	the pote	ntial to su	cceed in wo	ck? Yes	No
Comments:				y.,	8



Form 1B

MERRILL SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

WORK EXPERIENCE REPORT

Employee	۹" •		Address	 	
Employer		, (Address \	-	•
Month	Yéar_	,	Date		

	Su	n	Мо	n	Tu	es	- We	ed	Th	urs	Fr	i	Sa	it	Hours Weekly
	Date	Hrs	Date	Hrs	Date	Hrs	Date	Hrs	Date.	Hrs	Date	Hrs	Date	Hrs	
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Total Hours for Month

Comments:

Form 1C

X indicates employee did not work that day.

ERIC

PERMIT TO WORK

STATEMENT OF EMPLOYER		. Date	·
PLEASE PRINT:			4 ***
This is to certify that I int	end to employ	(name of	student)
for the following type of wor			<u> </u>
Between the hours of AM		PM to PM	
Monday - Tuesday - Wednesday	· •		ll work)
Saturday hours:AM	AM and PM	PM	•
Sunday hours:AM	AM and PM	PM , &	•
Total hours of work per week	•		
		`	
	<u> </u>	ame of person or fi	rm
	1	Address	
		Address	•
		Signed By:	
Statement of Parent		For W	ork Permit
My (son - daughter)	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		
has my permission to work for	the above named emplo	oyer.	
Date	Signature of Parent:		W
•	Address of Parent:		
Proof of Age	, 5		,
. 25¢ Fee 🗼		•	٥.,
Student Social Security Number	er		
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INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

APPLICATION FOR SUBMINIMUM WAGE LICENSE (Section 104.07 Wisconsin Statutes)

Name of employer	Date of application	
Address		
Nature of business		
Address where employee will be working		•
Name of employee		
· Address of employee		
How long employed by this employer	How long on present Job	
Has special certificate been issued by the	U. S. Dept. of Labor?	
Occupation in which employee is to be employee	5 0	
Explain why employee is unable to earn min	imum waqe rate.	·
	Ann	
Wage employer will guarantee worker \$		
Signature of employer		
Signature of employee	*	
If the employee is physically handicapped statement from a licensed physician indica affects the applicant's ability to perform	filld the extent to union one	ompanied by a disability
	•• ••	
	to.	1
If this application is filed on behalf of authorized representative of the Public We Statement is not necessary but signature be	strare bepartment in the chysic	or a duly ian's
Signature of authorizing official	·	
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WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

APPLICATION FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE, Fill in both sides of this form as completely as possible. Your Rehabilitation Counselor will need this information during st visit and, if nocossary, ho will holp you complote the form. The information you give on this application form will be held confidential. NOTICE TO APPLICANT: Services, financial aid, and other benefits of the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services are provided on a non-discriminatory basis, as required by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Individuals applying for or receiving assistance through this agency who believe that discrimination on the ground of race, color, or national origin is being practiced by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services may file a written complaint with the State igency, the Federal agency, or both. Any written complaint is to be signed by the complainant, shall give in detail the time, place, pertinent facts and circumstances of the alleged discrimination and shall be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Social Services, 830 State Office Building, 1 West Wilson Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53702. . NAME: Last First 2. ADDRESS: Street or RFD No. County Middle Zip Code 3. TELEPHONE NUMBER: 4. SOCIAL SECURITY-NUMBER: 5. If your present address is not your home address please indicate: Street or RFD No. County Zip Code 6. Give directions to your home (name or number of highways-directions north, south, cost, or eyest): 7. DATE OF BIRTH: 8. SEX: 9. MARITAL STATUS 10. VETERAN: 11. SELECTIVE 12. HOW LONG HAVE YOU Month ☐ Divorced SERVICE REJECTED. LIVED IN WISCONSIN? □ .Sinale TI Male Married Yes Separated Widowed ☐ Female C. No Yes No 13. EDUCATION, YEAR COMPLETED. Circle One 14. FOR WHAT OCCUPATION ARE YOU TRAINED? 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 or more 15. NAME AND LOCATION OF LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED 16. NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS: Date Last Attended: JIST MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD Age Relationship Occupation Firm or Company HAVE YOU HAD PREVIOUS CONTACT WITH A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AGENCY? ☐ No If So When: ☐ Yes 19. BRIEFLY EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENT! DISABILITY(S) AND HOW YOUR DAILY ACTIVITY IS AFFECTED: AVE YOU BEEN HOSPITALIZED BECAUSE OF THIS DISABILITY(S) [] No Yes

(Continue on Other Side)

OCTORS WHO ARE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR DISABILITY(S): 1_

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