

Collaborative Activity: Top Barriers and Solutions

Identified Barriers	Proposed Solutions
Liability concerns	 Understand the district/agency policy that will cover student(s) on the jobsite and have these readily accessible for potential employers Have an informational packet that covers logistical concerns available to share with potential employers. Develop a release/waiver that aligns with policy for students and families to sign
Employer perceptions about disabilities	 Use social media/brochures to spotlight student WBL successes Educate by sharing resources with employers Invite employers to the school and attend and host community and employer events
Lack of Employer Resources	 Explain the role of any job support personnel such as job coaches, VR Counselors, or paraprofessionals to the employer Ask the employer what skills the student will need ahead of time Ensure that the students and school staff are well-trained before going to the jobsite Brainstorm accommodations Look into financial incentives for employers, such as stipends, grants, or tax credits
Lack of Work Based Learning opportunities that meet students' PINS	 Use friends/family/personal connections as resources and and ask for others to help by doing the same Look into volunteer and unpaid opportunities Connect with your local Chamber of Commerce and attend other community meetings/events
Employer perceptions about job coaches and employment supports	 Explain the role of any job support personnel such as job coaches, VR Counselors, or paraprofessionals to the employer Be prepared to navigate conflict or difficult situations with flexibility Check in and communicate with the employer frequently
Logistics of scheduling job placements that work for the business within the school-day timeframe	 Prioritize small local businesses. Think creatively about how opportunities can be accessed based on the student's schedule Be thoughtful in scheduling and involve school counselors as needed for help with student's class schedules
Navigating Corporate Policies	 Prioritize small local businesses. Think creatively about how opportunities can be accessed based on the student's schedule Be thoughtful in scheduling and involve school counselors as needed for help with student's class schedules