



# Project SEARCH

## A typical day's schedule

School Day: Late August through May, Monday-Friday, 8:00am – 2:00pm

- 8:00-9:00am – Students attend employability skills class at the job site. Lessons are based upon increasing independent living and employability skills, such as maintaining a budgeting, resume development, and interviewing skills. Instruction follows a curriculum developed by Project SEARCH instructors across the state.
- 9:00 – 11:00am – Students participate in three non-paid internships, patterned upon entry level positions within the host business. Job coaching supports are embedded into the internship assignment, and fades as the student increases skills and confidence.
- 11:00-11:30am – Lunch on site with other student interns.
- 11:30am – 1:45pm – Students return to internship department.
- 1:45 – 2:00pm – Students return to classroom for reflection and discussion with instructor and job coaches.

## Internship Rotations

Each internship rotation lasts approximately 10 weeks.

Students are matched to most appropriate internships based upon interests, skills, and vocational needs.

Job coaches work one to one with the student until he/she can complete assigned tasks independently. This individual instruction generally takes one week for the intern to achieve the necessary skills.

Successful interns earn letters of recommendation from hosting department supervisors for use in their employment portfolio.

## Job Placement

Job placement is the ultimate goal of Project SEARCH. Employment typically occurs in the spring after internships are successfully completed. The site team meets weekly to identify vocational strengths and areas for targeted development of new skills for each student. The student's Project SEARCH team – which includes the student, family, Project SEARCH instructor and job coach, school district representative, and adult services agency liaisons – meets regularly to discuss progress toward the goal of competitive, community-based employment.

## Eligibility Criteria

18-22 years of age and have met requirements for graduation

Basic communication, reading, and math skills

Work-place appropriate social, grooming, and hygiene skills

Independent feeding and toileting skills

Eligible for services through Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities

