

WI Let's Get to Work Project 2011 - 2017

www.letsgettoworkwi.org



What is Let's Get to Work?

One of 8 Partnerships in Employment (PIE) states. Comprised of 4 main areas:

- 1) Consortium of 40 organizations to identify policy issues; included a youth track
- 2) Policy team to implement policy changes
- 3) 9 school pilot sites implementing evidence based practices with 72 students

4) Coaches to provide on-site technical



School & Employment Outcomes

Earlier connection to VR * Early paid work
experiences while still in high school * Better
transition training for teachers * Community
Conversations to raise community awareness *
Access to general education classes and extracurricular activities * Connecting families to career
options and work incentives benefits counseling *
Businesses more engaged * Students more
independent & confident * Many more youth
wanting to work * School staff working as a team

Project Highlights

- DVR Youth On the Job Training Initiative available to all youth in the state
- Pay for Performance bill passed to incentivize schools for good transition outcomes
- OSEP Guidance on LRE for work placements
- Development of a sub-minimum wage data collection tool to obtain accurate information
- LGTW activities integrated into statewide
 Transition Improvement Grant (parent training,
 Community Conversations, coaching)

Results!

- Tripled the number of pilot youth in paid employment in less than a year!
- Increased integrated activities from 43% to 70%.
- 73% of students had at least one paid job in the community (baseline was 11.5%).
- Significantly increased the quality of life of students with disabilities as a direct result of increased work and community participation.

Lasting Impacts!

- Training that doubled family's expectations of their youth in paid, community employment is now part of two statewide projects.
- Let's Get to Work Quick Guide, a free online tool of best practices in bite size pieces is being used by WI schools, the statewide school transition team and 4 other states.
- Project findings and policy recommendations included in the WIOA Advisory Committee federal report.
- Community Conversations and coaching are two successful strategies being used statewide by schools and two state agencies.