



Executive Summary
Work Based Learning Revamp
Emily Bielejec



The objective of the Work Based Learning Revamp was to increase the number of different site opportunities for students with disabilities within the Syracuse City School District. This project also required insurance considerations to create an improved permission slip as well as training teaching assistants supervising and interacting with students on work sites.

Very quickly, our Office of Risk Management reviewed the current permission slip and improved upon the liability concerns to ensure the work based learning sites would be able to commence as usual in November of the 2019-2020 school year. Special Education teachers distributed the revised permission slips to qualifying students, and completed the request for transportation form for both new and recurring work sites.

In years past, the work based learning sites were utilized based on personal relationships and long standing cooperation between the district and the non-profit organization or local business. This Revamp sought to increase the number of different sites and share the resources between the high school programs, rather than having sites localized with certain buildings and programs. Due to the COVID-19, the Revamp did not accomplish this aspect; however, planning is taking place looking forward into the 2021-2022 school year.

The intended teaching assistant training was postponed due to the alteration of the November 5 2019 Superintendent's Conference day to building level professional development and parent-teacher conferences. Then concurrently, the mandatory closure due to COVID-19 made the training no longer relevant. As planning commences for the 20-21 school year, the district is not anticipating utilizing work based learning programs in the same capacity as in prior years. Therefore, for the 21-22 school year, a training for teaching assistants supervising and interacting with students is time sensitive and relevant.

To ensure Syracuse City School District's students with disabilities continue to develop employability skills aligned with the New York State Career Development and Occupational Studies Standards, the planning of continued use of work based learning sites will continue in the 2021-2022 school year.