



STEP

Secondary Transition Experience Program
A high school work program
that could work for you!

**Gain work experience.
Earn money. Get school credit.
Make connections for adult life.**

How STEP Can work for You

1. **Gain Work Experience:** Students who gain work experience during high school are more likely to have a job and earn more money after they leave school.
2. **Shortened School Day:** Most students in STEP are able to leave school early, to go to work.
3. **School credit:** You get to leave school early because you are earning school credit for your job.
4. **Adult Life Connections:** Students in STEP get connected with employers who can give career advice, and who can become solid references for future jobs. Also, students in STEP get connected with a Vocational Counselor from the Illinois Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) who can help pay for further training (e.g., college) and provide job placement assistance.
5. **Jobsite Support:** Students who enroll in STEP get connected with a STEP Teacher/Coordinator at their school. This teacher will stay in touch with you about your job, will visit your jobsite at least quarterly, and will give you job advice and coaching as needed. They will also give you information on careers, workplace skills, self-advocacy, and future job training.

How do I know if STEP is right for me?

- STEP is for students aged 16 and above, who have an IEP or a 504 Plan
- STEP is for students who have a part time job or a volunteer internship.
- Some students in volunteer work can receive a monthly allowance through STEP, to cover work expenses.

How to sign up for STEP

- First, talk with your Guidance Counselor and your IEP Case Manager, to see if STEP might fit into your class schedule.
- Next, talk to the STEP Teacher/Coordinator at your school, and find out if you have the right kind of job or volunteer work for STEP.
- If everything looks good for you to be in STEP, work with your STEP Teacher/Coordinator to complete the sign-up process.

STEP Teacher/Coordinator at your school:
