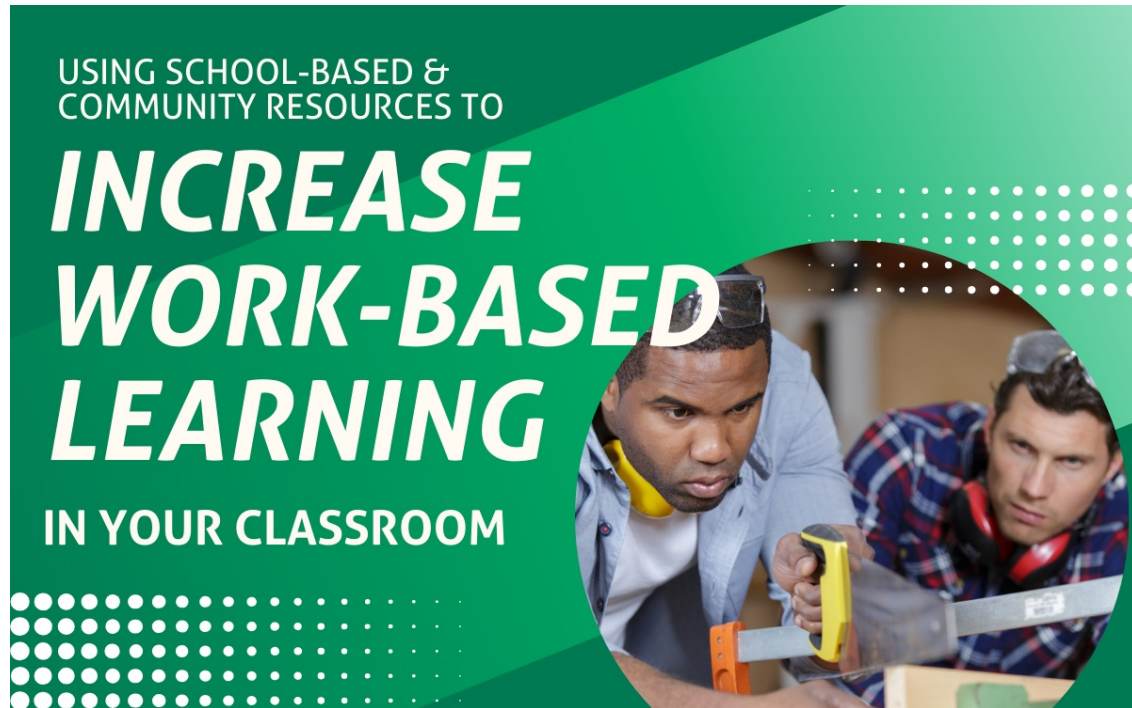


NEWS & VIEWS

Tips. Research. Best Practices. Community.



Participation in work-based learning experiences is one of the strongest indicators of adult workplace success according to a [study](#) by the US Department of Education. This month, we decided to explore how to effectively create and implement work-based learning opportunities for every student.



We were honored to have Jennifer Wall as our [September Webinar Wednesday](#) guest speaker. Formerly a secondary special education teacher, Jennifer is now a researcher, assistant professor, & current program consultant for the Transition Alliance of South Carolina. Her research focuses on self-advocacy and academic skills relative to the transition of students with disabilities to postsecondary education, employment, and independent living. Dr. Wall is involved with the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Division of Career Development and Transition (DCDT) on a national & local level.

LEARN BEST PRACTICES

Here is a sneak peek at some of the valuable insights Jennifer shared during our September Webinar Wednesday:

MIX & MATCH EXPERIENCES

Work-based learning often involves students practicing job skills off-campus in an employment environment. However, there are a lot of work-based learning experiences you could consider for your classroom, such as:

- **Job shadowing:** Watching someone do their job tasks with the intention of learning about their responsibilities (in-person or virtual).
- **Day-in-the-life simulations:** There are many recorded simulations so students can see tasks performed in a variety of jobs.
- **Mentoring:** Partnering with a professional to meet multiple times, ask them questions, and learn more about their career.
- **School-based enterprises:** Whether it's a cafe or a coffee cart, these can help students learn job skills within the school building. Learn more [here](#).
- **Internships:** Working in a junior role in a career of interest to learn if you enjoy the job or not.

Using a varied approach can help educators learn about student preferences and provide students with a better understanding of careers in new ways. This can be fun, cost-effective and easy to implement!

FOCUS ON AREAS OF STUDENT INTEREST

You may be wondering what types of skills should be your focus when it comes to work-based learning.

When considering the work-based learning skills to focus on, consider starting with skills that are transferrable to almost any job, such as:

- Interviewing skills
- Communication skills
- Completing pre-boarding & on-boarding paperwork
- Their appearance on the job

Next, you can overlay related activities with specific jobs your students are interested in. **Let the transition planning & IEP goals be your guide!** The goal of work-based learning experiences is to benefit the student, so use transition planning to inform everything you do!

BRING JOB SKILLS INTO THE CLASSROOM

Did you know you can create a work-based learning environment right in your classroom? Project Discovery allows you to bring job readiness to your students

in an easy & fun way! With differentiated, hands-on instruction, you can teach job skills and academics simultaneously.


Project Discovery's career kits also work well as a basis for student-based enterprises because they use real tools of the trade. The goal is to teach students job readiness skills, and you can make any kind of student-led business that does that!

[LEARN MORE ABOUT PROJECT DISCOVERY](#)

EXTRA WORK-BASED LEARNING RESOURCES FOR YOU!

We've curated a list of additional sources where you can find information about work-based learning experiences, as recommended by Jennifer!


- TASC (or any similar transition organization in your state)
- SC Works (or other programs that show you businesses in your area)



BUILD THE TRANSITION PROGRAM OF YOUR DREAMS!

Schedule a Consultation

[GET STARTED](#)



NEED SOLUTIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION?



Teaming together
to **champion** your
students.



[\(1 minute video\)](#)

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