



Work-Based Learning, Internships and Externships

Are our students career ready?

- Do today's students possess the skills needed to be successful in the workforce?
- Teen employment is at the lowest level since the Great Depression; low-income and minority teens are affected most
- Youth possess a limited understanding of how business operates or what is expected at work

Rethinking Work-Based Learning

- Expand and improve opportunities for work-based learning
 - Expand job shadowing, internships, connections to business
 - Develop virtual tours of Nebraska businesses
 - Teacher and counselor externships
- Engage Nebraska businesses and communities



Work-Based Learning

THE CONNECTION NCE MAKES with life as it is lived in the world of work is what makes it different and exciting. Work-Based Learning helps students consider their real-life future by giving them a taste of it right now. NCE treats these extended activities not as extracurricular sidelines to the business of schooling but as central elements of Career Technical Education.

The most common types of Work-Based Learning in Nebraska include:

- **Cooperative/Diversified Occupations Education** – an arrangement that coordinates part-time student work with the instruction they receive in the classroom.
- **Apprenticeships** – on-the-job training coordinated with courses of academic study leading to certified mastery of particular skills.
- **Internships** – part-time, on-the-job learning experiences that reinforce classroom instruction.
- **Career Mentoring** – establishes long-term relationships between students and mentors from business to develop career readiness skills, understanding of career options and workplace knowledge.
- **Job Shadowing** – following experienced workers to gain a better understanding of career options and work expectations.

www.education.ne.gov/WBL/index.html





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Nebraska Standards for Career Ready Practice

● **"A CAREER READY PERSON**
capitalizes on personal strengths, talents, education and experiences to bring value to the workplace and the community through his/her performance, skill, diligence, ethics and responsible behavior."
 ● — Definition of career readiness adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on May 5, 2010

The standards were derived from extensive input from Nebraska business and industry representatives expressing the most critical skills needed of employee and/or entrepreneurial success. These standards and related practices should be used over and over again with increasing complexity and relevance by students as they progress through their education pathways. The standards themselves do not dictate curriculum pedagogy or delivery of content. Schools and colleges may handle the teaching and assessing of these standards in many different ways.

www.education.ne.gov/nce/Standards.html

The career ready individual...



Applies appropriate academic and technical skills



Models ethical leadership and effective management



Communicates effectively and appropriately



Works productively in teams and demonstrates cultural competency



Contributes to employer and community success



Utilizes technology



Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them



Manages personal career development



Uses critical thinking



Attends to personal and financial well-being



Demonstrates innovation and creativity

The Nebraska Standards for Career Ready Practice were unanimously adopted by the Nebraska State Board of Education on December 8, 2011 and approved by the Nebraska Workforce Investment Board on June 28, 2013.