

Berkshire County Internship Programs Examples of Academic and Work-Based-Learning Integration

12 high schools currently participate throughout the county, program coordination is monitored through the guidance departments, open to ALL students, all participants receive academic credit, all have a WBL Plan, and all programs integrate academic components. Internship Programs are implemented based on individual school district guidelines and expectations:

Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School in Adams, Massachusetts Integrates the study of arts and technology with core subjects to promote mastery of academic skills and content while preparing students for college and post-secondary careers. As part of the school's mission to produce independent thinkers, dynamic workers and active citizens, graduating seniors are required to successfully complete a minimum of one college course and a ten-week internship, minimum 80 hours, with a local community sponsor. Prior to internship placements, students will participate in a seven-week preparation for the workplace presented by Junior Achievement of western Massachusetts. Further collaboration between the BCREB and school internship coordinator will help to identify and recruit internship sponsors. Workplace supervisors will be presented with a WBLP assessment inventory in order to carefully evaluate the intern's competencies. The school's academic assignments (research paper on career of interest, interview with supervisor or other professional at workplace, weekly journal culminating in a personal-response paper, oral presentation to peers and teachers) will involve work in the areas of Language Arts and Social Studies, possibly additional work in math, science or the creative arts, depending on student's interest and the nature of the internship. The senior advisor and internship coordinator will oversee the internship requirements and incorporate the final WBLP report from the workplace supervisor into final academic grading for the assigned quarter.

Mount Greylock Regional High School in Williamstown, Massachusetts

Internship program is open to all seniors, is incorporated within the Senior Project English curriculum and is conducted during the second semester. Program coordinators promote the program via English classes beginning in January and announcements are made school wide. Participants receive academic credit and there is an application process followed by the development of an internship contract. Internships are arranged by each participating student with follow-up conducted by the guidance department. Each student is required to complete a daily journal reflecting on their work experience and attend weekly, internship meetings with the program coordinators. Every Senior must submit a Senior Project upon graduating and those participating in the internship program will develop their projects around their internship experience and future career interests.

Taconic High School in Pittsfield, Massachusetts

The year long *Diversified Work Experience Program* is open to all senior business, arts and science, and allied health students and juniors who have coursework in place toward a career pathway. Students are engaged in their academics for the morning portion of the day and spend the afternoon/evening portion engaged in their work experience. Post program placement services are offered including additional training and continuing education programs and community services. *Brokered internships during the school year and summer are also offered to junior and senior Academy students who are engaged in the Science, Information Technology, Hotel and*

Tourism and Finance academic pathways. All are paid internships and each student receives academic credit corresponding to the total hours spent per week in their work experience. The year long Cooperative Education Program is open to 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in the vocational programs. Job placements correspond to each student's trade program of study. All are paid internships and each student receives academic credit corresponding to total hours spent per week in their work experience.

In order to participate in either the diversified work or co-op programs, students must participate in a pre-requisite Job Shadowing experience during their sophomore year that constitutes a major portion of their 3rd Quarter English grade.

Lenox Memorial High School in Lenox, Massachusetts

Internship program is offered to juniors and seniors in a solid position to graduate. All participating students are engaged in unpaid internships and are required to attend quarterly seminars with the program coordinator and complete required writing assignments and work-based-learning activities as an elective and receive a grade that calculates into their GPA. *Their internship experience must be conducted during the school day compromising between one and four class periods.* All internships are matched to correlate to each student's career interest.

Monument Mountain Regional High School in Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Internship Program is offered to all seniors who are in good academic standing and have participated in the pre-requisite job shadowing experience through their junior English classes. Students attend their required academic courses in the morning and participate in their internship experience during the afternoon. All participating students are required to attend quarterly seminars with the internship coordinators and complete all required writing assignments for a grade that calculates into their GPA. Monument Mountain is currently undergoing a curricular transformation where all students will be enrolled in career pathway programming for their particular field of interest by their junior years. Career exploration activities and an internship experience will be major components within each career pathway that will be monitored through each designated pathway department lead. This will allow for ALL students to participate in a work experience before graduating that will be directly tied to their academic course of study.

Important to note that Berkshire Works Career Center offers all of their workshops and credentialing programs (namely the National Retail Federation's Workplace Readiness Curriculum) to all high school students in the county and readily assists all internship coordinators and teachers with encouraging their students to participate in these offerings.