

PSUSD WorkAbility I Program

What is WorkAbility?

- [WorkAbility I](#) is a nationally recognized school-to-work program that provides comprehensive pre-employment training, employment placement, and follow-up for middle and high school students in special education who are making the transition from school to work.
- The vision of the California Department of Education (CDE), Special Education Division is that all individuals with disabilities will successfully participate in preparation for the workplace and independent living.
- The mission of WorkAbility I is to promote the involvement of key stakeholders, including students, families, educators, employers and other agencies in planning and implementing an array of services that will culminate in successful student transition to employment, lifelong learning and quality adult life.

WorkAbility I provides:

- Classroom workshops, work experience and job training to benefit students, employers, and the community at large.
- Special education students (ages 14-22) the opportunity to complete their secondary education while also obtaining marketable skills.
- Career awareness and career exploration to secondary students with IEPs

Components of WorkAbility I:

Career Interests: The school staff and transition specialists will lead various activities with students to assist them in identifying their interests, strengths and weaknesses. Inventories are both formal and informal measures.

Career Awareness: It is difficult to plan for the future when unaware of the many options available. Students receive assistance with using completed interest and skill inventories to explore correlating careers. Career awareness is infused into the special education curriculum and is designed to give students information and experience related to planning for the future.

Career and Community Speakers: Speakers from community businesses and programs come to the campuses to present information about the world of work and community resources that will assist students as they transition from high school and into adult life.

Job Placement: Specialists assist students with placement at businesses within the community for 40 hours earning minimum wage. Placements are based on career interests, informal interviews, job readiness, and school performance, including grades, attendance, and behavior.

WorkAbility I is funded by a grant from the California Department of Education Special Education Department

Director of Special Education

Dr. Victoria Parkinson
760.883.2703, then dial
480.5014
vparkinson@psusd.us

Coordinator of Special Education

Mark Kalkoske
760.883.2703, then dial
480.5016
mkalkoske@psusd.us

WA Program Manager

Sheryl Deeds
760.778.0422
sdeeds@psusd.us

WA Transition Specialists

Priscilla Arballo
PSHS, MSJ, DLA
760.416.8452
parballo@psusd.us

Angie Sosa
DHSHS, Wenzlaff Alt. Center
760.416.8452
asosa@psusd.us

Kathy Nollen
CCHS, RMHS
760.416.8450
knollen@psusd.us

Administrative Secretary

Norlene Rossetti
760.883.2703, then dial
480.5011
nrossetti@psusd.us

Payroll Contact

Alina Howard
760.883.2710, then dial
480.6080
ahoward@psusd.us

Section 56471 of the California Education Code states that:

WorkAbility project applications shall include, but are not limited to, the following elements: (1) recruitment, (2) assessment, (3) counseling, (4) pre-employment skills training, (5) vocational training, (6) student wages for try-out employment, (7) placement in unsubsidized employment, (8) other assistance with transition to a quality adult life, and (9) utilization of an interdisciplinary advisory committee to enhance project goals.

Program Information for Palm Springs USD 142-05

Funded to Serve: 594
Funded to Place: 148

*Students placed (student working at a job earning money) should be no less than 25% of students funded to be served.