
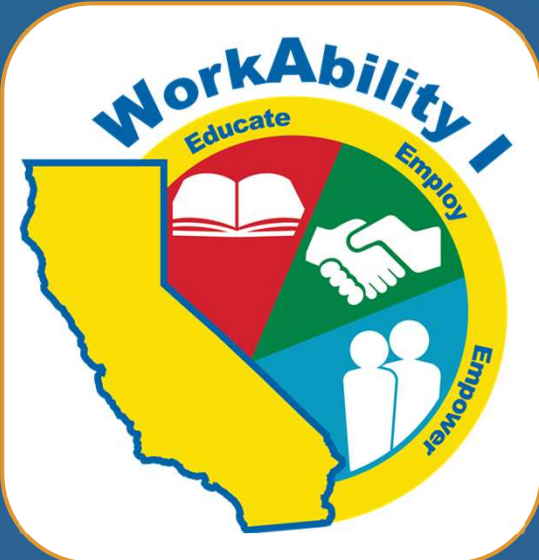




WorkAbility I

A California Transition Program





1

WorkAbility Programs

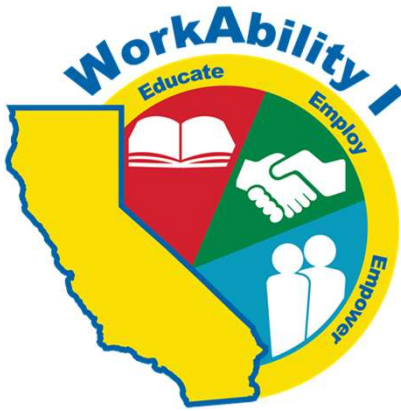



<p>WorkAbility I</p> <p>WAI</p> <p>Middle Schools High Schools</p>	<p>WorkAbility II</p> <p>WAI</p> <p>Adult Education</p>	<p>WorkAbility III</p> <p>WAI</p> <p>Community Colleges</p>	<p>WorkAbility IV</p> <p>WAI</p> <p>California Universities</p>
---	--	--	--



2

WorkAbility I: The Basics



- The mission of WAI 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 competitive integrated employment (CIE), lifelong learning, and quality of life.
- Funded and administered by the California Department of Education to eligible students receiving special education services in middle school, high school, and adult transition programs since 1981.
- Partners with the California Department of Rehabilitation and the California Department of Developmental Services via Regional Centers through local partnerships agreements to provide Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for individuals with disabilities.
- Local programs partner with local businesses and agencies to provide pre-employment and employment services.

Statewide Statistics at a Glance



2021-2022 School Year

- Students served through WAI programs: **102,761**
- Students placed in paid work experience: **15,598**
- Grantees: **260+** districts and schools statewide
- Funding: **\$39,738,000**
- WorkAbility I pays student workers' minimum wage.

Services & Supports Provided by WAI Include:

- Vocational assessments
- Career awareness
- Exposure to post-secondary opportunities
- Work readiness
- Self-advocacy skills
- Independent living skills
- Job seeking skills



5

RUSD WorkAbility I Services



RUSD WorkAbility I staff provides students with an array of transition services by:

- supporting middle and high school special education teachers in offering valuable opportunities to their students.
- partnering with local businesses, agencies, educational institutions, and community members to provide students with a realistic view of post-secondary educational opportunities, job market requirements and work experiences
- offering students activities, events, connections, and resources that help them explore the world of work

6

RUSD WorkAbility I Work Experiences

Work Experience participants receive:

- A vocational evaluation of interests and abilities
- Employment preparation and support
- Assistance and continual follow-up during the temporary Work Experience

Eligible students are encouraged to apply for an independent, temporary Work Experience. Requirements include:

- A current and active IEP
- Age 16-22 years old
- The desire and ability to work independently
- Meets Work Permit eligibility including: appropriate grades, attendance, and behavior
- Completed RUSD WorkAbility I and DOR Student Services Work Experience application documents
- Federally approved "Right to Work" documentation
- Job qualifications as set by the employer



7

Industry & Post-Secondary Education Tours

Examples from previous tours:



8

RUSD WorkAbility I Partners

Examples of past partners for classroom speakers, career day participants, event collaboration and/or hosting, program development, industry tours, etc.



9

How Can You Help?

- Share resources and information that will support student post-secondary opportunities
- Volunteer as a presenter
- Facilitate or provide a study tour of a local business or post-secondary educational program/institution
- Facilitate or provide a work experience opportunity
- Participate in our [Junior/Senior Career Day](#) on Friday, March 10, 2023



SAVE THE DATE

RUSD'S Transition Services is sponsoring a
Junior & Senior Career Day

Hosted by:
California Baptist University
Friday, March 10, 2023
8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Come hear Career Presenters and visit Resource Tables

The WorkAbility I program is funded by a grant from the California Department of Education, Special Education Division



10



11

RUSD WorkAbility I Staff

Tedra Trimm

Transition Coordinator
 Middle Schools: Central, Sierra, University & Virtual
 High Schools: North, Poly, Ramona & Virtual
ttrimm@riversideunified.org

Jennifer Walker

Transition Coordinator
 Middle Schools: Chemawa, Earhart, Gage & Miller
 High Schools: Arlington, King, COPE, Lincoln, Summit View,
 Raincross High Schools & Virtual
jmwalker@riversideunified.org

Laura Williams

Transition Coordinator
 Secondary Life Skills Programs
lwilliams@riversideunified.org

Tracey Cleary

Employment Development Specialist
 Martin Luther King, John W. North & Ramona
 High Schools
tcleary@riversideunified.org

Judith Leal

Employment Development Specialist
 Arlington, Poly, Lincoln, COPE, Summit View
 & Raincross High Schools
jleal@riversideunified.org

Robert Diaz

Special Education Coordinator
rjdiaz@riversideunified.org

12

