

Frequently Asked Questions

Can schools grant credit for work experience [released early to go to work, not CTE (Career and Technical Education) or EC (Exceptional Children) students]?

- **Answer:** Specific course codes for work-based learning courses are available in the CTE Course Inventory, as outlined by state board policy. The coding to CTE WBL (Work Based Learning) must be connected to a CTE WBL program/CTE program of study. For more information about the overall requirements for all forms of work-based learning, please refer to [SBE Policy CTED- 0003](#).

Can students receive credit for providing in school services?

- **Answer:** Students cannot receive academic credit by providing school services such as bus driver, cafeteria worker, office assistant, or teacher assistant. (SBE policy CCRE-001, Course for Credit).

What does it mean for WBL opportunities to be high-quality?

- **Answer:** Broadly, WBL should meet the following standards of quality:
 - **Rigorous:** Skill-based, and tied to measurable outcomes
 - **Relevant:** Connected to a student's interests and to the real world of work
 - **Reflective:** Engages the student in reflection and analysis
 - **Interactive:** Providing multiple and extended opportunities for students to interact with industry professionals
 - **Integrated:** Connected with the student's school-based curriculum and for academic credit

Where can a current list of course offerings that meet the Work-based Learning course standards be found?

- **Answer:** Refer to the NC CTE Course Inventory on the [NC Career and Education \(CTE\) Course Management System \(CMS\)](#). View the corresponding course codes as it applies to specific work-based learning experiences within a given career cluster.

How does Work-based Learning benefit employers who participate?

- **Answer:** In addition to the usual benefits of community engagement, WBL decreases the skills gap between employee and job requirements, addresses labor pool demands and increases the skill level of potential employees. Employers can reduce turnover of entry-level employees through the hiring of Work-based Learning graduates.

Where can information on child labor laws be found?

- **Answer:** Information as it pertains to youth employment can be found on the [NC Department of Labor](#) website.

What makes Registered Apprenticeship different from other types of workplace training?

- **Answer:** Apprenticeships are an innovative *credit-bearing* system of skilled occupational training that combines practical work experience, on-the-job learning, with related academic and technical instruction, and wages earned for skills gain, called a progressive wage scale. Through this earn and learn model, students also earn a state and national credential, or Journey Worker Credential, upon completion of an apprenticeship.

A youth apprenticeship and adult apprenticeship have the same requirements and are registered as the same program. Youth Apprenticeship or apprentice refers to a student who begins their apprenticeship in high school. “High School” or “Youth” apprentice are interchangeable terms.

To participate in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship, a student must be at least 16 years of age and eligible to work in the United States. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) defines youth as a person 16-24 years old and often provides funding and support for apprentices. Students who are not in high school but are in this age span are referred to as youth IN an apprenticeship.

For more information about apprenticeships and pre-apprenticeships in North Carolina, please visit [ApprenticeshipNC](#) for more information.