



Education/employer
partnerships



Related classroom
instruction



Qualified supervision
and safety training



Industry-recognized
credentials



Paid work experience



Grant funding

What is Youth Skills Training?

The Youth Skills Training (YST) program supports partnerships between schools, employers and community organizations to provide safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experience to students 16 and older.

These locally developed partnerships provide exposure to industry, related classroom instruction, safety training, industry-recognized credentials and paid work experience. Current industries include: **advanced manufacturing, agriculture, automotive, health care and information technology.**

YST programs are approved and monitored by the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). **By meeting YST requirements and receiving approval from DLI, student learners are allowed to work in industries otherwise prohibited by child-labor laws.**

DLI offers and provides outreach, consultation, program approval and grant administration.

Program goals

- Introduce students to high-growth, in-demand, living-wage careers.
- Provide safety training, technical skills and employment skills.
- Prepare students for successful careers.
- Address the shortage of skilled employees.
- Program expansion, development and support through DLI.

YST by the numbers

- **\$1.5 million** in grants awarded each year.
- Grants in amounts up to **\$100,000** for each partnership.
- **100** grants awarded to partnerships.
- **163,427** students provided with industry exposure.
- **68,591** students have completed industry-related classes.
- **6,400** students have earned an industry-recognized credential.
- **1,438** students have participated in a YST paid work experience.

Program approval process

The goal of YST is to provide 16-17 year old student learners with safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experience in high-growth, in-demand and living-wage industries. YST programs must be approved by DLI prior to student learners beginning work. **YST grant funding is not required to become an approved YST program.**

Below are the general steps required for program approval. Visit dli.mn.gov/yst for more information.

Step 1: Employer – Compiles list of equipment and tools student learners would use and submits proof of workers' compensation insurance.

Step 2: School – Provides a class syllabus for industry related classes.

Step 3: DLI – Schedules (virtual or in-person) safety meeting to review and discuss materials submitted by employer.

Step 4: DLI – Completes YST statute and work process form and sends to employer to review and sign.

Step 5: All – Complete and sign a student learner training agreement.

What others are saying about YST

"We believe that there is no better way to understand what a job is like than to do it. Hands-on experience led by employees allows student interns to experience the job first-hand and to see how their talents and interests could be applied in a real-world application."

– **Katie Burns, executive assistant**, manufacturer MITGI, Hutchinson

"In my time at Red Wing High School, the internship I have at Red Wing Shoes has been the most enriching and beneficial form of education I've received."

– **Reed, student learner**, Goodhue County Learn & Earn YST Program



Questions or more information?

YST@DLI on the web: dli.mn.gov/yst

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