



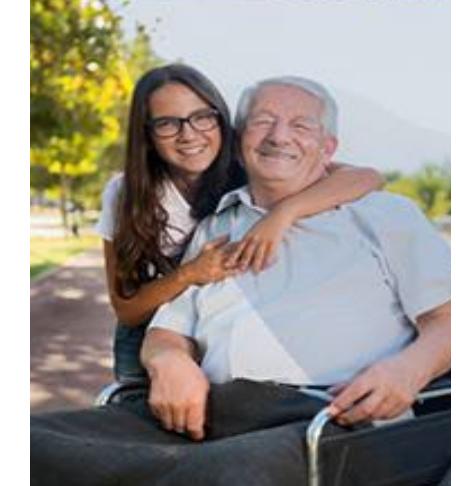
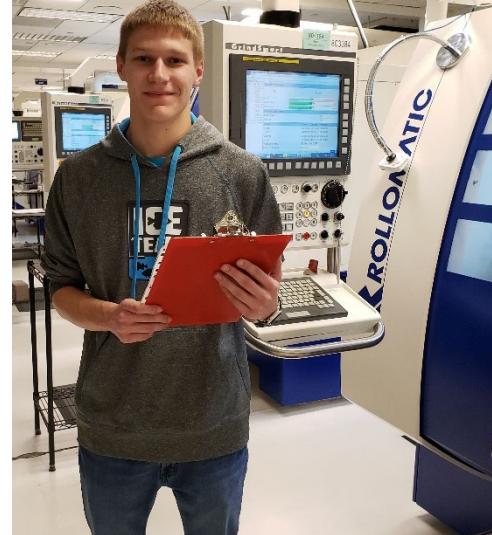
FALL 2025

## What is the Youth Skills Training (YST) program?

- Supporting partnerships between industry and education.
- Creating opportunities for students to learn about careers in industries.
- Providing industry-related classes for high school credit and safety training.
- Establishing safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences for student learners (**16-17 years old**).
- Developing a pathway for future talent for local industries.

## Current YST eligible industries:

- ✓ Advanced manufacturing
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Automotive
- ✓ Health care
- ✓ Information technology



## GOALS:

1. Support the creation of local partnerships.

**High schools**

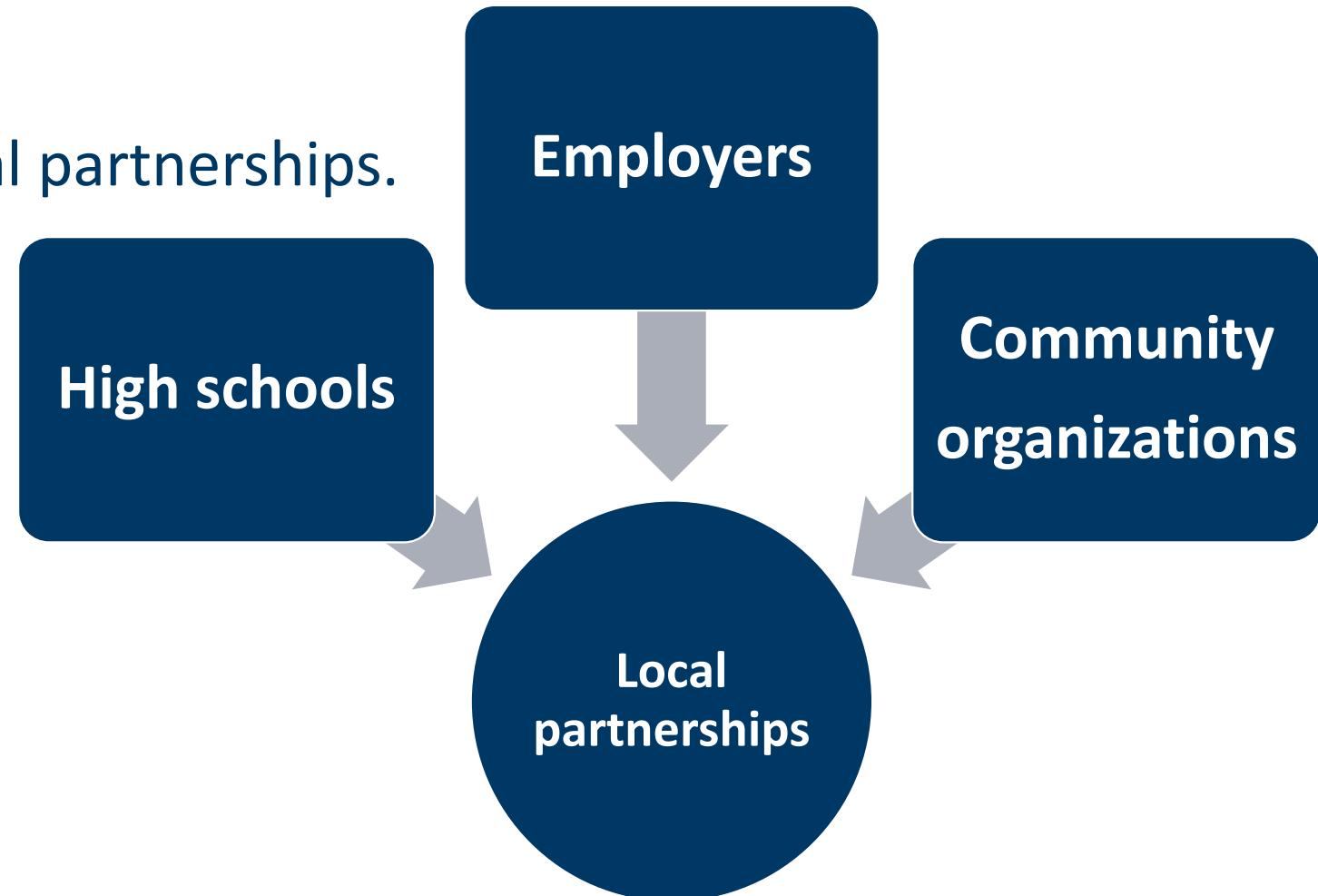
**Employers**

Chambers of commerce

Workforce groups

Nonprofit organization

Postsecondary institutions



## GOALS (cont.):

2. Introduce students to careers in high-growth, high-demand industries.
3. Prepare students for successful careers.
4. Address the shortage of skilled employees.



## Paid work experiences

### Learn and earn model

Develop paid work experiences for 16 and 17-year-old “student learners” to participate in safe, healthy and meaningful on-the-job training at employer sites.



Classroom instruction to learn skills

Paid work experience to develop skills

**YST@DLI**

# YST Program Components

## School Requirements

1. Industry exposure opportunities for students of all ages
2. Industry-related classes for high school credit
3. Industry-recognized credential/certification
4. Paid work experience for students 16 years of age and older
5. At least 80% of eligible students in paid work experience graduate
6. At least 60% of students in paid work experience earn an industry credential

Industry Exposure

Education

Credential/Certification

Paid Work Experience

## Benefits of YST for schools

- Meaningful career exploration, coursework, certification and paid work experiences in a supported industry pathway
- YST employer approval process ensures safe and healthy work environments
- YST@DLI technical assistance is ongoing
- Joining the YST network: school and employer partners to build capacity with
- YST offers 2-year competitive grants annually

## YST partnership opportunities

### School/employer/community partnership opportunities

- Tours of local employers
- Classroom speakers
- Job shadow experiences
- Consumable donations
- Training for teachers and staff
- Teacher externships
- Classroom instructor for the day
- Mentoring program
- Scholarship opportunities
- Informational Interviewing
- Open houses
- Monetary donations for (marketing, field trips, equipment etc.)

## Employer requirements

1. Partner with local schools
2. Seek employer approval through YST program
3. Pay YST student learners at least minimum wage
4. Create a safe, healthy, meaningful paid work experience
5. Train and mentor student learners



*By meeting YST requirements and receiving approval from DLI, student learners are allowed to work in industries that may otherwise be prohibited by child-labor laws.*

*YST programs can be approved with or without YST grant funds*

**Step 1:**  
**Employer submits**

- Proof of workers' compensation
- Experience Modification Rate
- Equipment & tool review (Form 1)
- Pictures of equipment/tools

**Step 2:**  
**Safety meeting**

- Review above information with YST staff and safety consultant

*Safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences*

## A YST safety meeting is not:

- The YST safety meeting is not an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting does not result in citations or fines.
- The YST safety meeting will not trigger an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting is not entered into a data base or recorded for any purpose other than YST program approval.

## Benefits of YST for employers

- Grow talent pool from an earlier age
- Retain YST student learners as full-time employees after graduation
- DLI “stamp of approval” as a safe and healthy work environment for youth
- YST framework ensures that employees aren’t just interested, but have developed skills/investment in the industry
- Develop feeder school relationships – reliable source of recruitment
- Provide guidance on industry specific curriculum and certifications offered in local schools

## YST program grant funding:

- Total of \$1.5 million in grant funding awarded each year.
- Grants up to \$100,000 awarded to local partnerships.
- Two-year grant period
- 100 YST grants have been awarded throughout the state since the start of the program in 2017.

***\*Grant funding is not required to create a program or participate in YST.***

## YST grant funding uses:

- Marketing and advertising programs
- Recruiting schools, employers and students
- Student transportation
- Staff to coordinate and monitor program outcomes
- Student credentials/certifications
- Supplies and curriculum

***\*\*Funds cannot be used to pay student wages\*\****

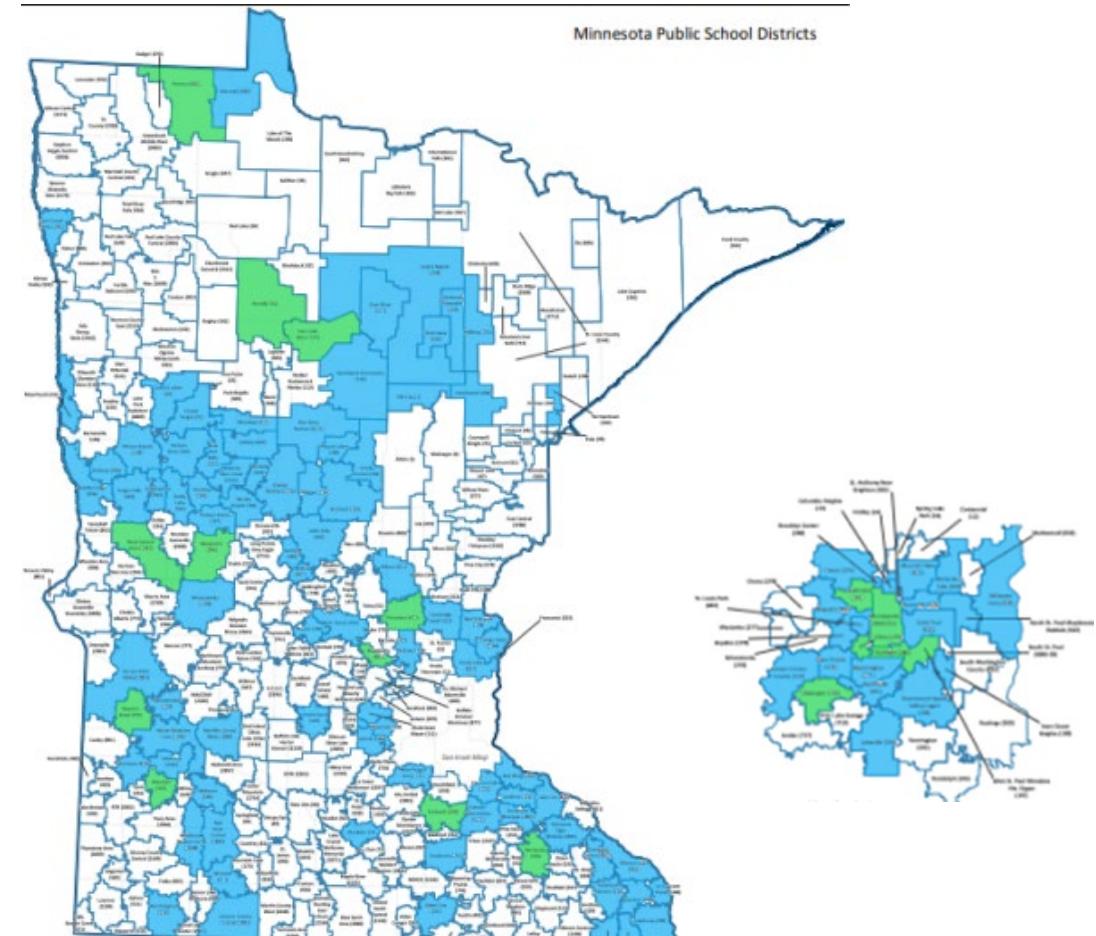
# YST program grantees

## YST grantees

Red Wing Ignite	Detroit Lakes Schools	Roseville Area Schools	Albert Lea Schools
Hutchinson Schools	Goodwill Industries	Mankato Public Schools	Cambridge-Isanti Schools
Twin West	Lakeville Schools	Chisago Lakes Schools	Fergus Falls Schools
White Bear Lake Schools	Monticello Schools	Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce	Great River School
Winona	North Branch Schools	Milaca Public Schools	Hennepin West Consortium
Elk River Schools	Princeton Schools	East Grand Forks Schools	Hermantown Schools
Forest Lake Schools	SW Metro District #288	Otter Tail County	Itasca Area Schools Collaborative
Vadnais Heights Economic Development (VHEDC)	Hibbing Schools	Venture Academy	Wellstone High School
SW MN Private Industry Council	Boys & Girls Club of Central MN	Stillwater Area Schools	Moorhead Schools
Intermediate District #287	Southeast Service Cooperative	Alexandria Schools	New Prague Schools
Bloomington Schools	American Nursing & Technical	Sourcewell	Parkers Prairie Schools
Ramsey County Workforce Genesys Works	Burnsville Schools	Edina Public Schools	Perham Schools
Spark-Y	ISD #112 East Carver Coop	Breckenridge Schools	ROCORI School District
Bemidji Schools	Owatonna Schools	Workforce Development Inc.	Staples-Motley Schools
	Career Solutions	Faribault Schools	
		Windom Schools	
		Minnewaska Schools	

## New YST grantees (round 8)

Roseau School District  
Shakopee High School  
TrekNorth Jr. and Sr. High School  
CreateMPLS  
West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan Area Schools  
Marshall Public Schools  
Robbinsdale Area Schools  
Cass Lake-Bena High School  
Minneapolis Public Schools  
Dawson-Boyd Public Schools  
Rochester Public Schools  
West Central Area School District



## Since start of program in 2017:

- **163,427** students provided with industry exposure.
- **68,591** students have completed industry-related classes.
- **6,400** students have earned an industry-related credential.
- **1,438** students have participated in a paid work experience.

## Contact information

**Jo Daggett**

**Program Manager**

**651-284-5354**

**Jo.Daggett@state.mn.us**

**Nimo Samatar**

**Program Consultant**

**651-284-5184**

**Nimo.Samatar@state.mn.us**

**Faye Blough**

**Program Consultant**

**651-284-5341**

**Faye.Blough@state.mn.us**

**[dli.mn.gov/yst](http://dli.mn.gov/yst)**