

Informing Families

Building Trust

A Partnership for Better Communication
On Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State

Honing Job Skills in High School

Skills Centers prepare high school juniors and seniors for vocational careers in a wide variety of fields, with hands-on training that's great for students who thrive in a non-traditional learning environment. They're an extension of the student's day (about two and a half hours) and are offered to any local area high school student within a Skills Center's region.

As part of the general education curriculum, they're a great way for students with disabilities to tap into interests and abilities that lead to employment.

Although Skill Centers are staffed by the host school district, it's up to the home high school to provide the necessary supports and accommodations (included in the IEP).

SKILLS CENTER TRAINING AND THE IEP

If your son or daughter is about to become a junior or senior, contact your regional Skills Center and ask to schedule a visit. If you feel your son or daughter would benefit from attending, invite a representative from the Skills Center to be part of the IEP team. The IEP team considers:

- Is it a good fit?
- Will the student be successful?
- Will they find a career as a result of participating?
- What kinds of support are needed?

If the team agrees that this is a good placement, and the home high school agrees to send the necessary supports/accommodation, Skills Center training is included in the IEP.

As long as s/he remains enrolled in high school, the student can continue to participate in the Skills Center until age 21.



Hands-On Learning



Skills Centers engage students with hands on (applied) learning in a variety of occupational skills that relate directly to the job market. They provide active and engaging learning environments for students who thrive with a hands-on approach to learning.

Job Preparation



Skills Centers prepare students for careers in culinary arts, office, construction trades, automotive, manufacturing, engineering, early childhood education, veterinary tech and much more. Disciplines vary from center to center, so be sure to find out what your Skills Center offers.

Industry Teachers



Instructors have a minimum of six years working in the field they teach. Many have had 10, 20 and even 30 years experience working in industry. They not only bring their knowledge, but passion and love for what they do.



There are currently 13 regional Skills Centers across the state serving local area school districts. For a list of locations, visit washingtonskillscenters.org.

