

# YST @ DLI

Youth Skills Training

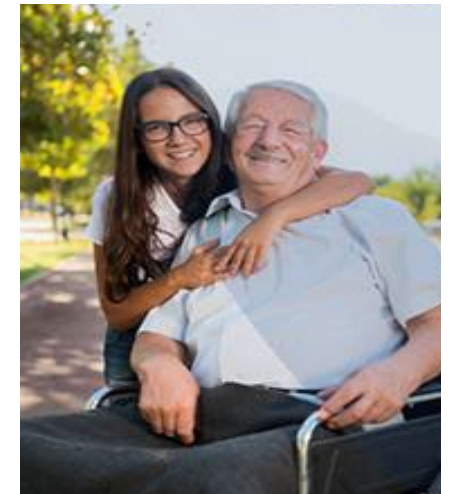
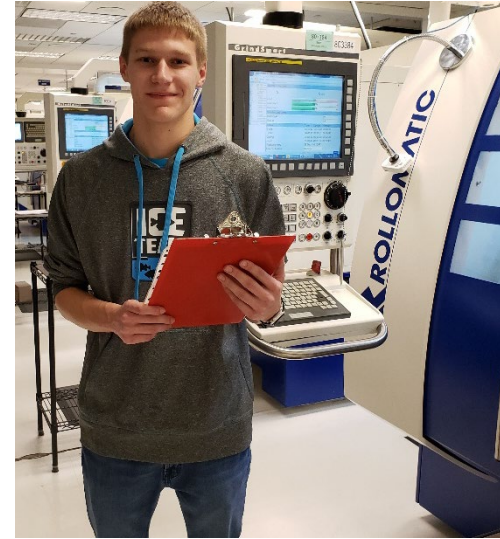
**Summer 2025**

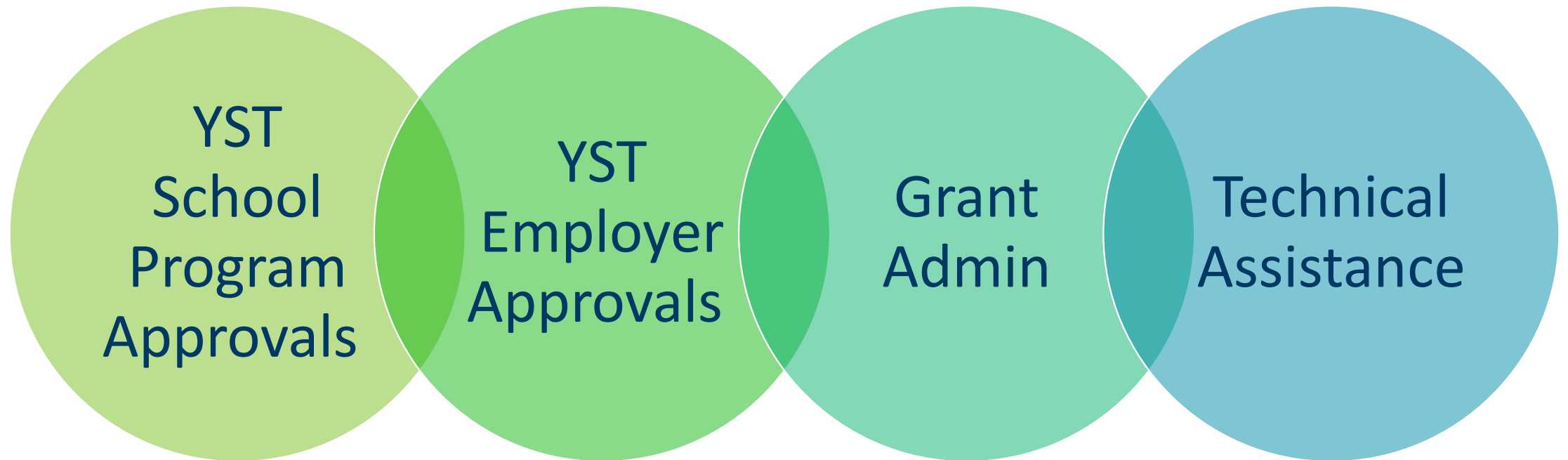
## What is the Youth Skills Training (YST) program?

- 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**

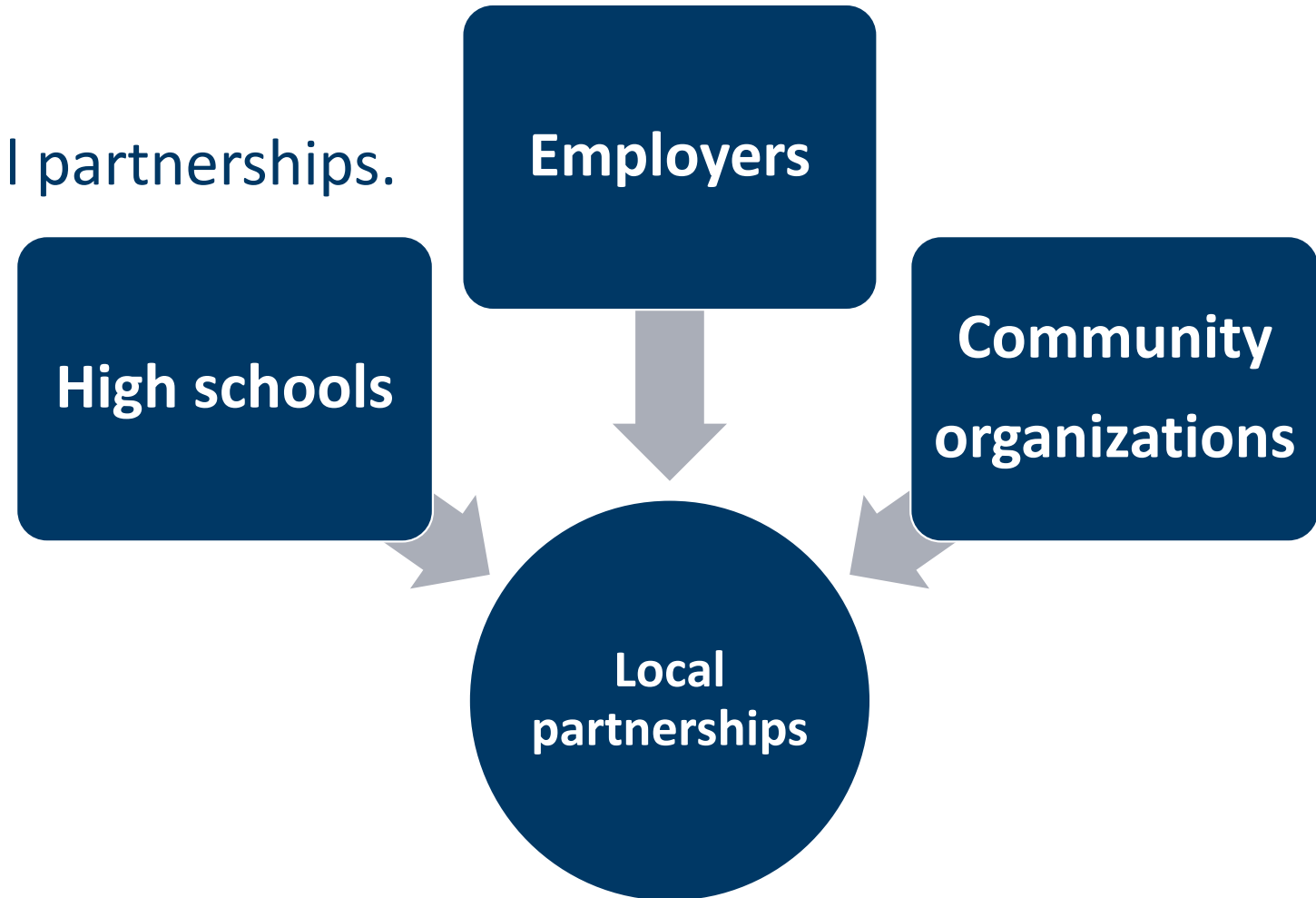




## GOALS:

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.



## Learn and earn model

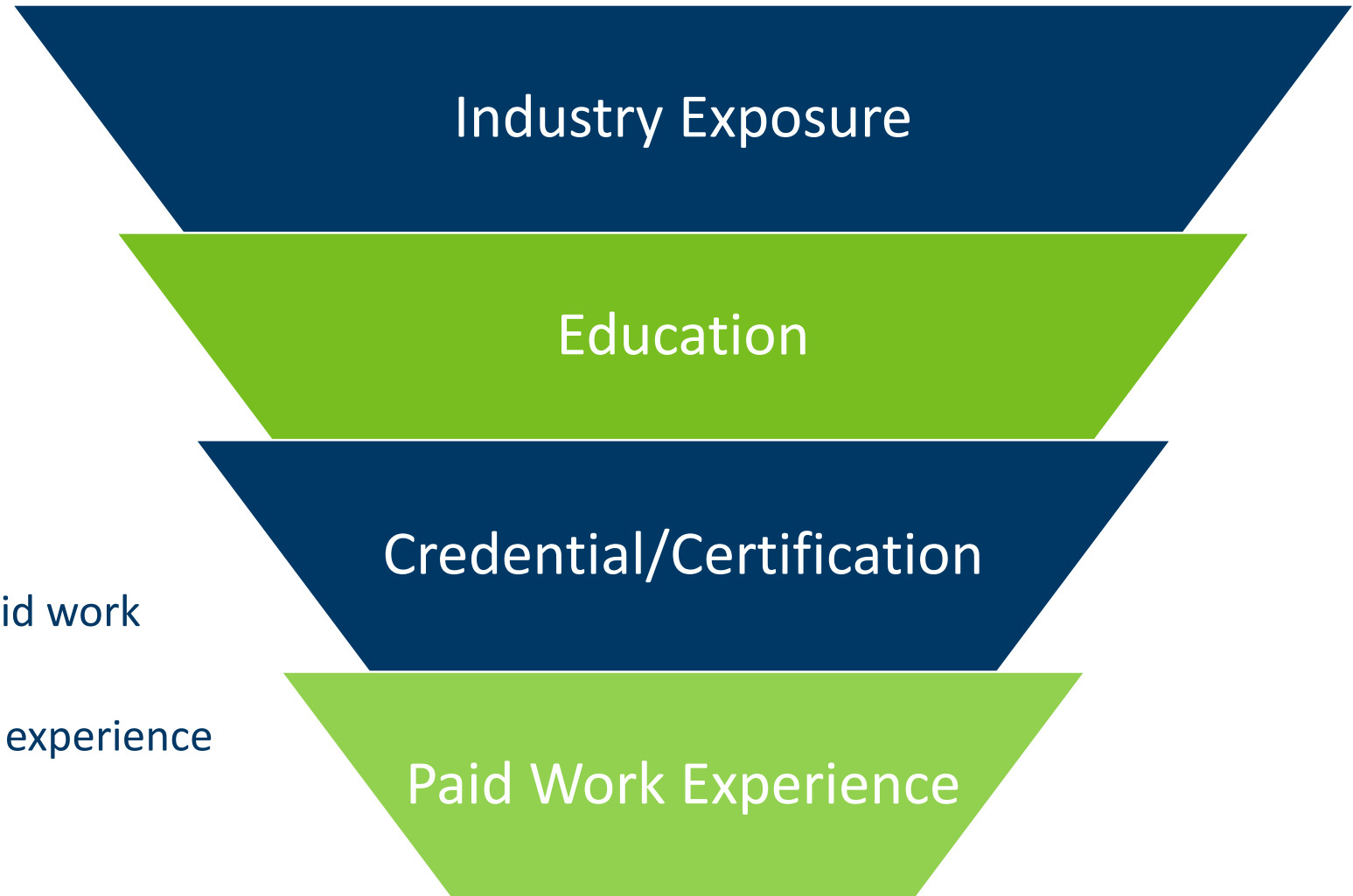
Develop paid work experiences for 16 and 17-year-old “student learners” to participate in safe, healthy and meaningful on-the-job training at employer sites.





## 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





- 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

## 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.

- 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

## School/employer/community partnership opportunities

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

## 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 grantees

Red Wing Ignite  
Hutchinson Schools  
Twin West  
White Bear Lake Schools  
Winona  
Elk River Schools  
Forest Lake Schools  
Vadnais Heights Economic  
Development (VHEDC)  
SW MN Private Industry  
Council  
Intermediate District #287  
Bloomington Schools  
Ramsey County Workforce  
Genesys Works  
Spark-Y  
Bemidji Schools

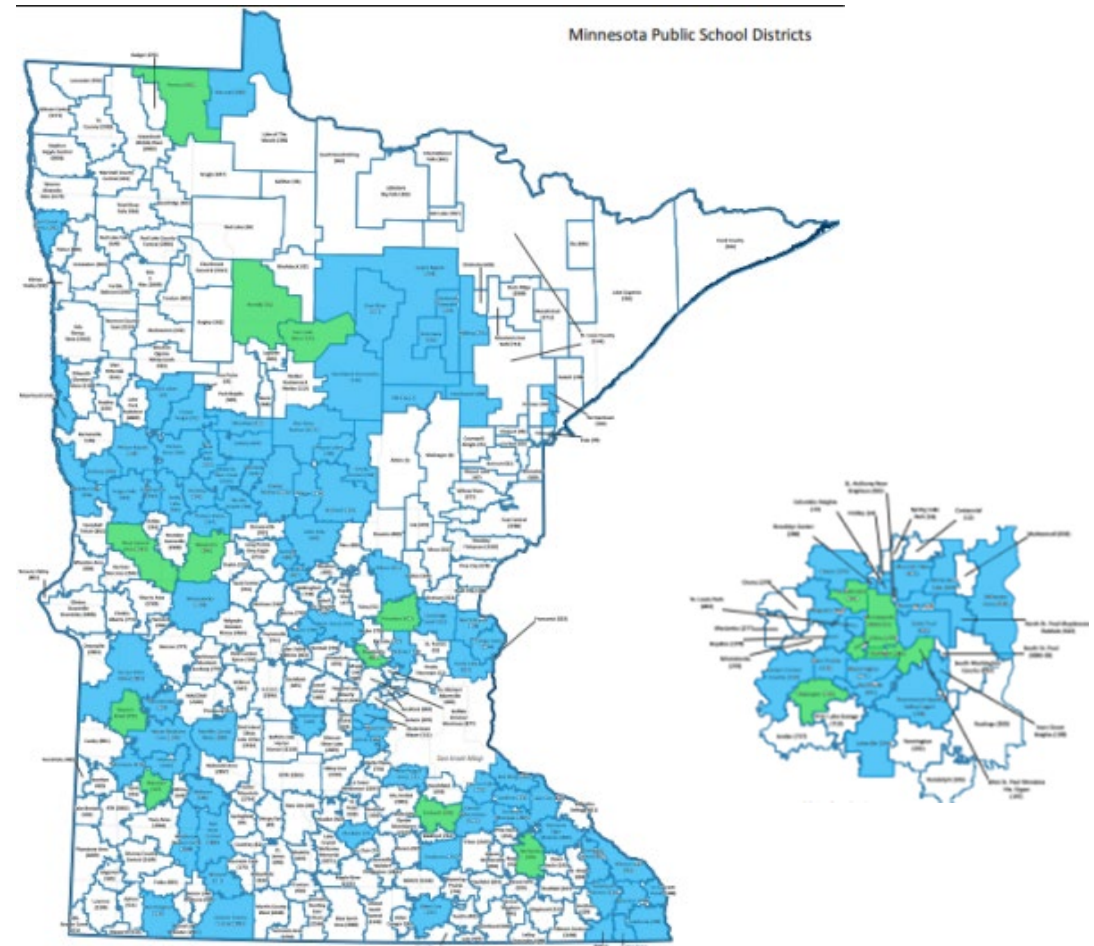
Detroit Lakes Schools  
Goodwill Industries  
Lakeville Schools  
Monticello Schools  
North Branch Schools  
Princeton Schools  
SW Metro District #288  
Hibbing Schools  
Boys & Girls Club of Central  
MN  
Southeast Service  
Cooperative  
American Nursing &  
Technical  
Burnsville Schools  
ISD #112 East Carver Coop  
Owatonna Schools  
Career Solutions

Roseville Area Schools  
Mankato Public Schools  
Chisago Lakes Schools  
Grand Rapids Area Chamber  
of Commerce  
Milaca Public Schools  
East Grand Forks Schools  
Otter Tail County  
Venture Academy  
Stillwater Area Schools  
Alexandria Schools  
Sourcewell  
Edina Public Schools  
Breckenridge Schools  
Workforce Development Inc.  
Faribault Schools  
Windom Schools  
Minnewaska Schools

Albert Lea Schools  
Cambridge-Isanti Schools  
Fergus Falls Schools  
Great River School  
Hennepin West Consortium  
Hermantown Schools  
Itasca Area Schools Collaborative  
Wellstone High School  
Moorhead Schools  
New Prague Schools  
Parkers Prairie Schools  
Perham Schools  
ROCORI School District  
Staples-Motley 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:

- **151,682** students provided with industry exposure.
- **67,291** students have completed industry-related classes.
- **5,671** students have earned an industry-related credential.
- **1,403** students have participated in a paid work experience.

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