

DOINGWHATWORKS



SAMPLE MATERIAL

Project Y.O.U.

Sleepy Hollow High School, New York

Topic: Dropout Prevention

Practice: Rigorous/Relevant Instruction

This presentation describes the Project Y.O.U. transition program at Sleepy Hollow High School. The program is a work/study program for students at risk of academic difficulties and students with special needs. The program works on three levels. At the first level, students receive instruction on career cluster units. In this program, students are “employed” by attending these classes. At level two, students are employed in one of the school district buildings or within the community. At both levels one and two, students receive a stipend, which is funded by the school district. At level three, students are employed within the community. At this level students are fully employed, including a competitive salary and benefits.

“How Project Y.O.U. Succeeds for Students with Special Needs”

**Presented by:
Maureen Fleming
and
Kim Kaczmarek**



“What is Project Y.O.U.?”

- **Youth Opportunities Unlimited**
- **Work/Study Program for students with special needs**
- **Sleepy Hollow High School, Sleepy Hollow, NY**



“How Did Project Y.O.U. Begin?”

- Established in 1992
- Originally developed to serve “at risk” students
- In 1999 program extended to serve developmentally disabled population

“What is the criteria for the program?”

- Students are classified
- Students are IEP diploma candidates
- Students are motivated
- Student/parent contract

“How does the program work?”

- Three levels
- Incentive points
- Internships
- School and community collaboration
- Staffing
- Special features



“What are the **three** levels of the program?”

Level One



- Instruction and sheltered employment within the classroom
- Students work on career cluster units
- Students earn a stipend for their work
- Students complete district wide mailings, various projects related to the operation of the school store, and other activities.
- Currently, there are 5 students working on level 1

Level Two



- Employment within one of the school district's buildings or within the community
- Internships
- Students are given more responsibility and independence
- Students receive a raise in their stipend
- Currently, 14 students are on Level 2

Level Three



- Employment within the community
- The students are fully employed by the employer, including competitive salary and benefits.
- Currently, there are 3 students on level 3.

“What are *Incentive Points*?”

- Not hourly pay
- Students rewarded with incentive points which carry a monetary value
- Students paid stipend each month based on incentive points and level
- Stipends funded by school district
- Cooperation between program and Finance Office

“What are the staffing needs?”

- **2 Program Coordinators**

1 school based

1 community based

- **Para-professionals**

Number based on student needs

“How do the school and community work together?”



School Sites



- John Paulding School
- Winfield L. Morse School
- Washington Irving Intermediate School
- Sleepy Hollow Middle/High School
- Tappan Hill School
- Public Schools of the Tarrytowns Transportation Dept.

Community Sites



- Wal-Mart
- Stop –n–Shop (Dobbs Ferry)
- Stop –n–Shop (Tarrytown)
- Mobil Gas Station (C.A.R.S.)
- Brandywine Nursing Home
- Hudson Farms
- Classique Salon
- Salon 2000
- Elizabeth Mascia Daycare Center
- Tarryhall Nursing Home
- Tarrycrest Swim Club
- Y.M.C.A.
- Salvation Army
- Main Street Cafe
- Headless Horsemen Diner
- M & T Bank
- Ann & Andy Daycare
- Tarrytown Day Camp
- Sleepy Hollow Day Camp

“What are the Special Features?”

- Bank Component
- Driver’s Education
- Transition Fair
- Summer Program
- Various Social Celebrations
- Service of Out of District Students
- Consultation with other districts to replicate program
- Internships
- Offer selected mainstream students opportunity to participate in program

“How do students advance through the program?”

- Time sheets/supervisor evaluations
- Conferencing
- Recommendations
- Observations

“How is Discipline Addressed?”

- Temporary return to Level One
- Conference with staff and employer
- Behavioral contracts
- Reduction in pay
- Detention /suspension

“How is success measured?”

- Student advancement
- Increase in incentive points
- Decrease in absences
- Decrease in suspension/detention
- Improvement in grades
- Higher graduation rate
- Sustained employment in community

“How can you start a program like this?”

- Commitment from school district, parents, students and community
- Budget (Grants or district funds)
- Classroom component
- Community component
- Continuous staff collaboration

“How can we be contacted?”

Project Y.O.U.
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
at
Sleepy Hollow High School
210 North Broadway
Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591
Phone: 914-332-6292

Maureen Fleming
mfleming@tufsd.org

Kim Kaczmarek
kkaczmarek@tufsd.org

Any Questions?

Thank you!

