THE IMPORTANCE OF WORKFORCE READINESS

The need for schools to prepare students to enter and succeed in the workforce continues to grow as business and industry leaders seek qualified employees. In addition to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics skills, soft skills and dispositions such as communication, professionalism, teamwork, and punctuality are also critical and much sought by employers.

West Virginia’s approach to preparing high school students for employment immerses them in real workplace environments while they are still in high school. The state’s Simulated Workplace initiative is one example, collaborating with businesses, post-secondary institutions, and educators to provide authentic learning experiences.

The West Virginia Workforce Readiness Alliance focuses on projects aimed at building the capacity of West Virginia educators to engage students in authentic career-based curricula to assist in preparing them for the workforce.

GOAL OF THE ALLIANCE

The overarching goal for the alliance is to share the most relevant research-based information on career and technical education (CTE) and related curricula, reaching affected stakeholders (educators, students, and parents) in order to cultivate a more fact-based (rather than stereotype-based) culture around and understanding of CTE. Alliance members will work to:

- Show how CTE prepares students for the workforce.
- Help educators, students, and parents in understanding authentic workforce development.

RESEARCH AND ANALYTIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Alliance members will partner with REL Appalachia to:

- Disseminate information about CTE as a strategy for career readiness and success after high school.
- Examine CTE best practices and research the effectiveness of the Simulated Workplace initiative.
- Organize technical assistance on best practices for preparing high school students for the workforce.

BECOMING AN ALLIANCE MEMBER

Alliance members participate in the planning and implementation of projects. You choose the level of commitment right for you. The alliance is open to all school- and district-level administrators, teachers, and staff throughout West Virginia.

Questions?
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www.relappalachia.org