

Work Study Proposal

June 2nd, 2021

Pilot Proposal for Dedham High School Alternative Program
For the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

What is Work Study?

A structured program that provides students with an opportunity to meet their academic requirement for graduation while gaining valuable work experience. Through employment experience, students will build the knowledge skills and self confidence to be successful in higher education, in the workplace, and in life.

Traditional Work study was phased out of Dedham High School in the early 2000's with the introduction of the block rotating scheduling.

Background Info on Alternative Program

- The Alternative Program at Dedham High School was established in 1992 -- providing a therapeutic placement for Out of Districts students
 - One of the pioneering programs in the area and served as a model for other towns looking to keep students in district
- Students earn a DHS diploma
- Serves approximately 22-28 students each year
- All Students on IEP's (Special Education)
- Work Study was a key component of the this program supporting all students especially ones that were not looking for a post secondary education

Student Patterns*

**Data shows that these patterns begin before high school and become a barrier in HS as students need to meet graduation and attendance requirements*

39%

The percent of students who receive services in the Alternative Program at some point during their time in High School were found to be **credit deficient** after their **9th grade year**.

53%

The percent of students who receive services in the Alternative Program at some point during their time in High School were found to be **credit deficient** after their **10th grade year**.

37%

The percent of students who receive services in the Alternative Program at some point during their time in High School who were able to **successfully recoup some credit in summer school**

69%

The percent of students who receive services in the Alternative Program at some point during their time in High School who are **chronically absent** in their **9th grade year**

DHS Credit Requirements

111 = the # of Credits required to Graduate

5 = the # of credit assigned to each full year class

7 = the max # of courses a student can take per year

Students must pass an average of 6 out of 7 classes each year to graduate on time.

Students struggle to maintain motivation once they are behind in credits.



Highlights of Pilot Proposal

- Students will continue with their full course load of studies and continue to attend a full day
- Students will attend scheduled meetings to reflect on experience and problem solve



- Students will earn credit quarterly -- up to 5 credits per year and 15 total throughout HS
- Students will be required to show continued documentation of employment through program.
- Students will need to maintain their attendance in school to be eligible for work study credits
- Students 16 years and older will be eligible for program

Goals of Reinstating Work Study



- ★ Increase student motivation and engagement with the incentive of additional credit options
 - ✓ Improve Attendance
 - ✓ Improve Average # Credit accrued
 - ✓ Increase on time graduation rates
 - ★ Address Mandated Transition requirement as outlined in each of the students' IEP
 - ★ Provide structured opportunities to process workplace challenges and increase job retention
 - ★ Reduce the cycle of job-hopping for students post graduation
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Thank you!

Links

[DHS Work Study Pilot Proposal](#)

[Work Study Contract for Students](#)

[Work Study Record](#)

[Evaluation from Supervisor](#)

[Sample Student Reflection](#)
