

Meaningful Work

WHAT

Meaningful Work is an intervention that provides supervision and connection with a positive adult and potentially peer role models (if conducted as a group intervention). Students engage in a campus-based job on a daily or weekly basis with a caring adult as a supervisor. The intervention provides a break from regular classwork and an alternative space to learn and excel at school, and creates connectedness and belonging to the school. The student develops higher levels of self-monitoring, real-life work experience, and connection to their supervisor and “work colleagues” on campus.

WHY

- ◆ Provides opportunities for involvement so students have a contributing role on campus
- ◆ Provides an additional adult connection at school
- ◆ Develops the skills to be successful in a work environment
- ◆ Allows for young people to be recognized for their skills and contributions

WHO

Student:

- ◆ Low-level but consistent problem behaviors
- ◆ Needs adult connection and support
- ◆ Function of behavior may be escape/avoidance or adult/peer attention

Supervisor:

- ◆ Willing to monitor students and guide their work experience
- ◆ Connects well with students to build positive relationships
- ◆ Consistently available

HOW

Universal screeners, data decision rubrics, and request-for-assistance (RFA) referrals are the best methods for identifying students who would benefit from the intervention. Once selected, the student and their families are informed and given the option to participate. The student is connected with a mentor/supervisor who they enjoy spending time with. The supervisor oversees the student’s work and completes a daily or weekly “evaluation” that can be shared with parents. Teachers can also be asked to provide information about the student’s in-class performance at least weekly. The supervisor and the student set goals for increased performance in their job completion and in-class performance. Over the next 10 or more weeks, the student’s progress is graphed and monitored for positive growth.

Reference

http://kentisdpbis.pbworks.com/w/file/attach/65626697/PBIS_tier2%20overview%20excellent.pdf

Sprick, Randall S. Meaningful Work: Changing Student Behavior with School Jobs. Pacific Northwest Publishing, 2011. Accessed 15 February 2023.