

## Connecting Activities Executive Summary

### **What is Connecting Activities?**

- A \$7.1 million Department of Education state budget line item supporting School-to-Career Connecting Activities.
- Provides structured work-based learning experiences connected to classroom teaching to support employability skill gain.
- Establishes public-private partnerships through the Workforce Investment Boards to connect schools and businesses.
- Managed by the Department of Education, CA funds flow through the sixteen Workforce Investment Boards working in collaboration with Local School-to-Career Partnerships.

### **What are the features of Connecting Activities Work and Learning Internship Placements?**

- Internship placements are brokered by Connecting Activities staff who then work with employers to provide formal and informal mentoring to help the participant be successful on the job while building academic and career skills.
- Most internship placements are structured through the Work-Based Learning Plan, a tool designed to structure learning and productivity on the job.
- Placements may be in the private, public or nonprofit sector, and may be paid or unpaid, with the majority being paid, private sector placements.
- Placements are connected to career and academic development through a variety of formal and informal learning opportunities on the job.
- Students also build career and academic skills through related experiences such as workshops, guest speakers, job shadowing, career-related classes and more.
- Participation is open to all high-school-age students, with a particular emphasis on serving at-risk students.

### **How does Connecting Activities link to other programs?**

- Connecting Activities grants are provided by the Department of Education to the sixteen Local Workforce Investment Boards.
- Local Workforce Investment Boards work with schools/districts, community colleges, One-Stop Career Centers, Chambers of Commerce, non-profit School-to-Career Local Partnerships, and other organizations to provide services.
- Connecting Activities program providers seek to collaborate with other programs in order to build a wide array of work and learning experiences for older youth/young adults.
- Connecting Activities funds leverage DOE Academic Support grants in order to build "integrated work and learning" experiences that connect MCAS remediation with a work-based learning experience.

### **How many participants are served annually?**

- In FY2006, 12,612 students were placed in brokered internships with 5,288 employers.
- 3,152 students job shadowed with 2,462 employers.
- 490 teachers participated in externships, in which they work for several weeks at an employer site, gathering ideas for connecting workplace skills with classroom learning.
- In FY2007, with increased funding, we anticipate larger numbers of student, employer and teacher participants.

*For more information about Connecting Activities, contact Keith Westrich at 781-338-3902 (Email: [kwestrich@doe.mass.edu](mailto:kwestrich@doe.mass.edu)) or visit <http://www.doe.mass.edu/connect>.*

