



BRIDGING THE GAP School to Work

“Transition planning and services are designed to prepare a student with a disability to achieve his or her post-secondary goals related to living, learning and earning within the community.”

- New York State Education Department

The Arc of Ulster-Greene’s Bridging the Gap School to Work Program is designed to give high school students, who are affected by disabilities, hands-on experience in career exploration, life skills practice and universal foundation skills training; all essential elements for success in life after high school commencement.

- The program operates according to the school district’s calendar and is also available during summer session.
- Daily schedules are developed in relationship to each student’s goals and objectives.
- The program supports New York State’s Career Development and Occupational Studies Commencement Credential (CDOS) requirements.
- Students are paid minimum wage when interning at various job sites within the community.
- Lesson plans relate to CDOS standards.

Upon enrollment in the Bridging the Gap School to Work Program, students begin the Discovery Process, which includes interest inventories, learning style assessments and dialogue with teachers and family members to build a strong foundation for their future career planning. Through job exploration at a variety of community locations, each student learns about different local entry-level positions and is given internship opportunities to practice their newly acquired work skills. As a supplement, classroom instruction on Hygiene, Social Skills, Rights & Abuse, Public Safety, Travel Training and Money Management are provided to reinforce needed aptitudes for successful employment and community living. There will also be regular opportunities for practice in interviewing, resume writing and completing job searches.

During the program, education and assistance is provided to both students and their parents regarding eligibility and admission requirements for adult services. Referrals to continued services such as New York State’s Adult Career and Continuing Education Services—Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR), Medicaid Service Coordination, Clinical Services and other services funded through New York State’s Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Students graduating from this program are prepared to enter the workforce; either as an employee of a local business or as a committed volunteer. With decades of experience in vocational training and transitional planning, students of The Arc of Ulster-Greene’s Bridging the Gap School to Work Program are ready for success in their post-secondary pursuits.

To be eligible for The Arc of Ulster-Greene’s Bridging the Gap School to Work Program, students must have a documented disability, be of transition age (preferably 15 years of age and older) and The Arc of Ulster-Greene must be identified as a service provider within the Individualized Education Program (IEP). For admission, the school district shall provide a copy of the current IEP, most recent psychological evaluation, current medical information and a copy of a social security card, working papers, School ID and/or birth certificate. The school district will provide transportation to and from The Arc of Ulster-Greene for each enrolled student.

**For more information about School to Work services or to enroll a student,
contact Laurie Gallagher, School to Work Coordinator, by phone (845) 331-4300 ext. 218 or
via email Laurie.Gallagher@TheArcUG.org**

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