

PITD Report 2002

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School and Business Collaboration at Its Best



There has been a joint effort between the Merced County Workforce Investment Board, County High Schools, and their principals to put together an initiative which will benefit schools, students, and employers of Merced County. It is called the "Youth Employability Card" Program.

The development of the "Youth Employability Card" for students in Merced County has involved educators, business leaders, our local Youth Council, and members of the Merced County Workforce Investment Board.

★Why is this so important? The "Youth Employability Card" is a tool businesses can use in the selection of high school students for employment. The card is used to verify the student has met minimum levels of competency in those skills considered important to employment.

It will reinforce that what is important in school is also important in the business community. Students will learn they must meet certain competencies in order to be selected for a job, just as there are certain standards they must meet while in school. Employers will know the student has met certain minimum requirements if they have the card.

The expectation of this card is that more students will improve their grades, pass the exit exam, and complete high school, knowing that these accomplishments will improve their opportunities to obtain a job.

★What are the standards? The criteria for the student to get the "Youth Employability Card":

- 2.0 minimum GPA with no F's
- Regular attendance
- Works well with others
- Punctuality
- Completion of assigned tasks

★When does this start? The "Youth Employability Card" program is scheduled to begin when school starts this fall and the first cards should be distributed October 1st, 2002. This will give students the first six weeks of school to qualify. If they don't qualify with the first distribution they can try again after six weeks.

★How do you get a card? A student can apply for a "Youth Employability Card" by getting an application from the Career Tech at their high school and filling it out. The Career Tech will then verify their GPA, attendance, and punctuality. The teachers will determine if the students complete assigned tasks as requested. The majority of teachers must agree that a student "Works well with others".

The final step in getting the card is the Vice Principal signing off to verify that there have been no disciplinary problems.

★How can an employer participate? Employers can participate or get more information by calling Holly Newlon at 381-6740.

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