



The History of Project Search

Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996 by Erin Riehle, RN, MSN, who was the Director of Cincinnati Children's Emergency Department.

Since its inception, Project SEARCH has grown from a single program site at Cincinnati Children's to nearly 400 programs across 45 States and 7 countries.

Project SEARCH's primary objective is to prepare students with disabilities for competitive employment.

We are proud to be a part of this community collaboration to implement this nationally recognized model, which assists students transitioning from high school into the workforce.

The voyage of discovery is not in looking for new landscapes, but in looking with new eyes.
—Anonymous

Key Contacts

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Final acceptance into Project SEARCH is determined by the school district and the program's selection committee.

West Bend Mutual Insurance Company

"To provide peace of mind to our customers through sound insurance and exceptional service"



*West Bend Mutual
Insurance Project SEARCH
Mission: Working
collaboratively to provide
necessary life skills and
employment training to
young adults with
disabilities*



What is Project SEARCH?

Project SEARCH is a one-year transition program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school. It is designed for students whose goal is competitive employment.

Our program takes place at West Bend Mutual Insurance Company where immersion in the workplace facilitates learning marketable work skills.

Students participate in three unpaid internships to explore a variety of career paths. Their team includes family, a special education teacher, skills trainer, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation counselor and West Bend Mutual Insurance colleagues to create employment goals and supports during this important transition.

Our Project SEARCH Partners

Host Site:



Student Benefits through the Project SEARCH Model

- ✓ Participate in a variety of unpaid internships
- ✓ Acquire competitive, transferable and marketable job skills
- ✓ Gain increased independence, confidence and self-esteem
- ✓ Receive individualized coaching, instruction and feedback while on the job
- ✓ Develop connections to adult service agencies

Potential internship opportunities at WBMI

- ✓ Office services
- ✓ Food and nutrition
- ✓ Mailroom
- ✓ Laundry services
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Groundskeeping