

YST @ DLI

Youth Skills Training

Winter 2026

What is the Youth Skills Training (YST) program?

- Supporting partnerships between industry and education.
- Creating opportunities for students to learn about careers in industries.
- Providing industry-related classes for high school credit and safety training.
- Establishing safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences for student learners (**16-17 years old**).
- Developing a pathway for future talent for local industries.

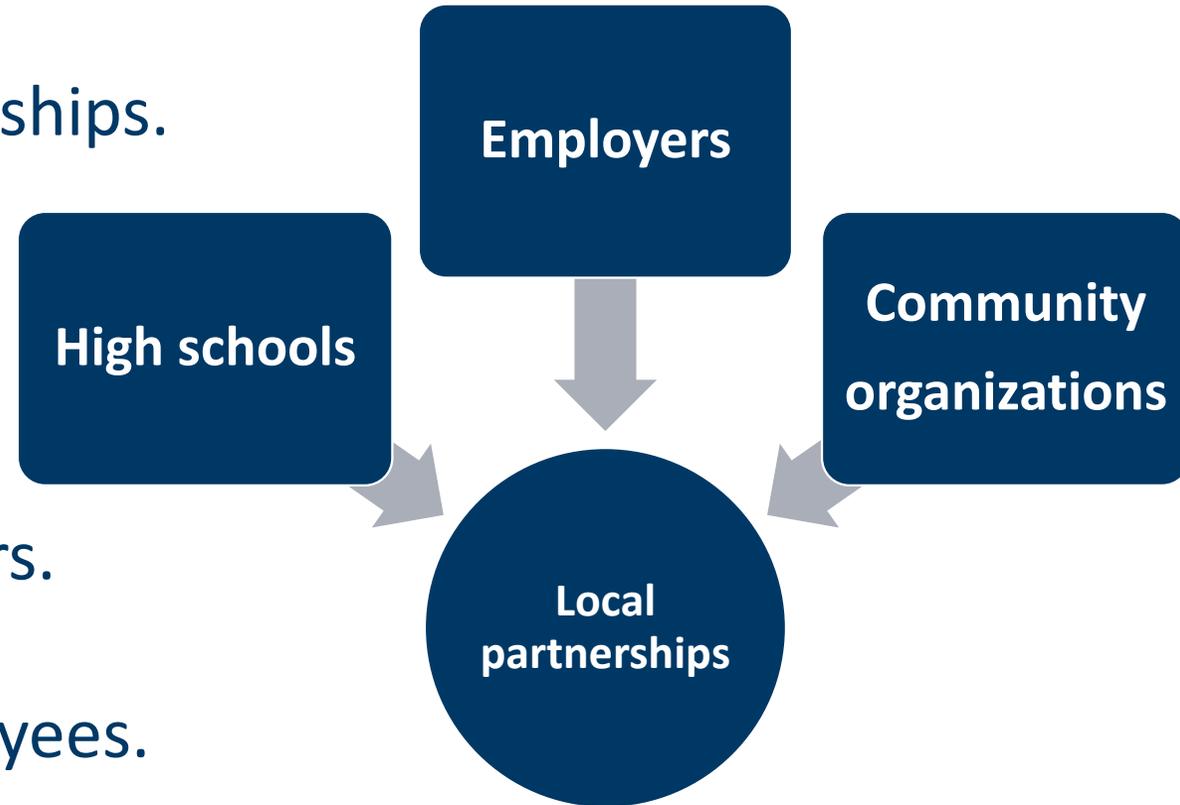
Current YST eligible industries:

- ✓ **Advanced manufacturing**
- ✓ **Agriculture**
- ✓ **Automotive**
- ✓ **Health care**
- ✓ **Information technology**



GOALS:

1. Support the creation of local partnerships.
2. Introduce students to careers in high-growth, high-demand industries.
3. Prepare students for successful careers.
4. Address the shortage of skilled employees.



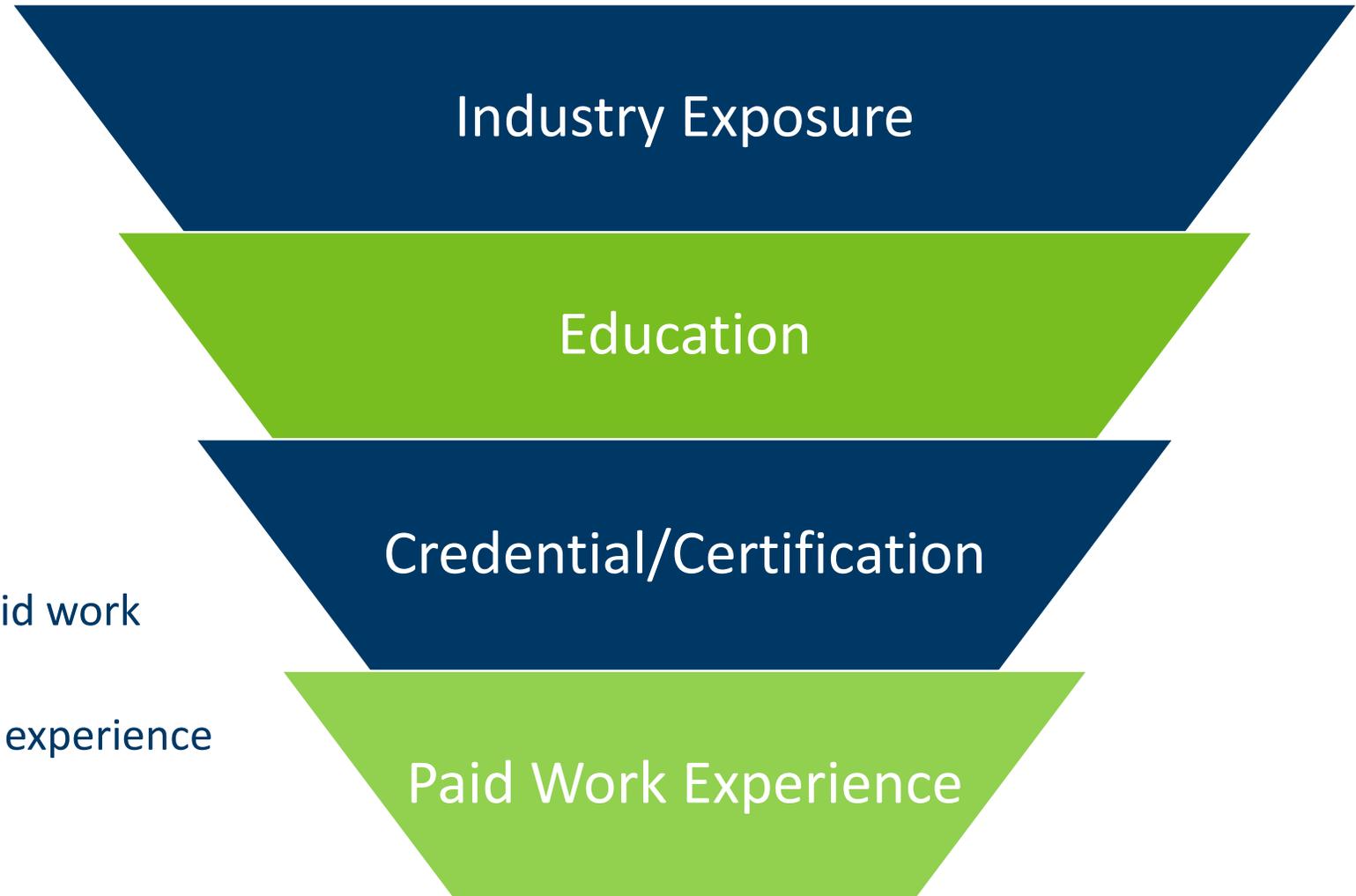
Learn and earn model

Develop paid work experiences for 16 and 17-year-old “student learners” to participate in safe, healthy and meaningful on-the-job training at employer sites.



School Requirements

1. Industry exposure opportunities for students of all ages
2. Industry-related classes for high school credit
3. Industry-recognized credential/certification
4. Paid work experience for students 16 years of age and older
5. At least 80% of eligible students in paid work experience graduate
6. At least 60% of students in paid work experience earn an industry credential



- Meaningful career exploration, coursework, certification and paid work experiences in a supported industry pathway
- YST employer approval process ensures safe and healthy work environments
- YST@DLI technical assistance is ongoing
- Joining the YST network: school and employer partners to build capacity with
- YST offers 2-year competitive grants annually

School/employer/community partnership opportunities

- Tours of local employers
- Classroom speakers
- Open houses/career fairs
- Job shadow experiences
- Informational Interviewing
- Classroom instructor for the day/workshops
- Consultation on curriculum/certifications
- Mentoring program
- Consumable donations (equipment etc)
- Advisory board member
- Training for teachers and staff
- Teacher externships
- YST program ambassador with other employers
- Monetary donations for (marketing, field trips, equipment etc.)
- Scholarship opportunities

Employer requirements

1. Partner with local schools
2. Seek employer approval through YST program
3. Employer/employee relationship
4. Pay YST student learners at least minimum wage
5. Train, supervise and mentor student learners
6. Create a safe, healthy, meaningful paid work experience

By meeting YST requirements and receiving approval from DLI, student learners are allowed to work in industries that may otherwise be prohibited by child-labor laws.



YST programs can be approved with or without YST grant funds

Step 1:

Employer submits

- Proof of workers' compensation
- Experience Modification Rate
- Equipment & tool review (Form 1)
- Pictures of equipment/tools

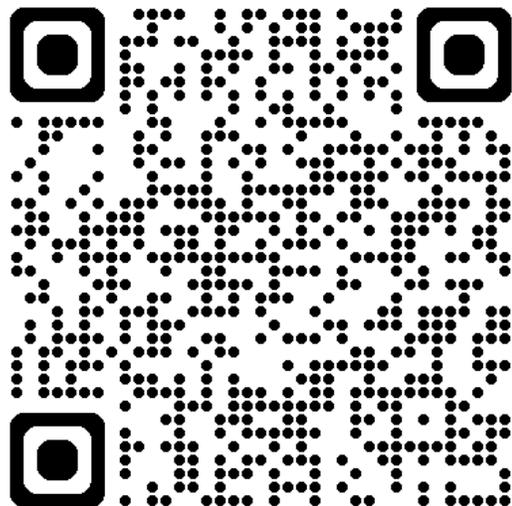
Step 2:

Safety meeting

- Review above information with YST staff and safety consultant

Safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences

- <https://dli.mn.gov/business/workforce/yst-employer-approval> YST employer approval | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry





Employer Machine, Tool and Equipment Review (Form 1)

| | | | |
|--|--|-----------|--|
| Employer name: | | Date: | |
| Address: | | | |
| Contact person: | | Phone: | |
| Email: | | Industry: | |
| NAICS code - classification of business establishment: | | | |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Name of YST Program: | |
| Lead contact name: | Organization: |
| Email: | Phone: |
| School District: | |

Please list all machines, tools and equipment that you would like reviewed for 16-17-year-old student

| YST EQUIPMENT, TOOLS & MACHINERY EVALUATION: | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
| MACHINE/ TOOL/ EQUIPMENT NAME: | BRAND/DATE OF MANUFACTURE | USED FOR: | SAFETY FEATURES: | REQUIRED PPE: |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

learner use as part of a Youth Skills Training (YST) paid work experience.

Please use back page for additional machines, equipment or tools.

Once this form is submitted to the Youth Skills Training (YST) Program, you will be contacted to schedule a virtual or in person safety meeting to review all documentation. Please send form to Jo Daggett, project manager of the YST



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A YST safety meeting is not:

- The YST safety meeting is not an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting does not result in citations or fines.
- The YST safety meeting will not trigger an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting is not entered into a data base or recorded for any purpose other than YST program approval.

- Grow talent pool from an earlier age
- Retain YST student learners as full-time employees after graduation
- DLI “stamp of approval” as a safe and healthy work environment for youth
- YST framework ensures that employees aren’t just interested, but have developed skills/investment in the industry
- Develop feeder school relationships – reliable source of recruitment
- Provide guidance on industry specific curriculum and certifications offered in local schools

YST program grant funding:

- Total of \$1.5 million in grant funding awarded each year.
- Grants up to \$100,000 awarded to local partnerships.
- Two-year grant period
- 100 YST grants have been awarded throughout the state since the start of the program in 2017.

**Grant funding is not required to create a program or participate in YST.*

YST grant funding uses:

- Staff to coordinate and monitor outcomes
- Marketing and advertising programs
- Recruiting schools, employers and students
- Student transportation
- Student credentials/certifications
- Supplies and curriculum

****Funds cannot be used to pay student wages***

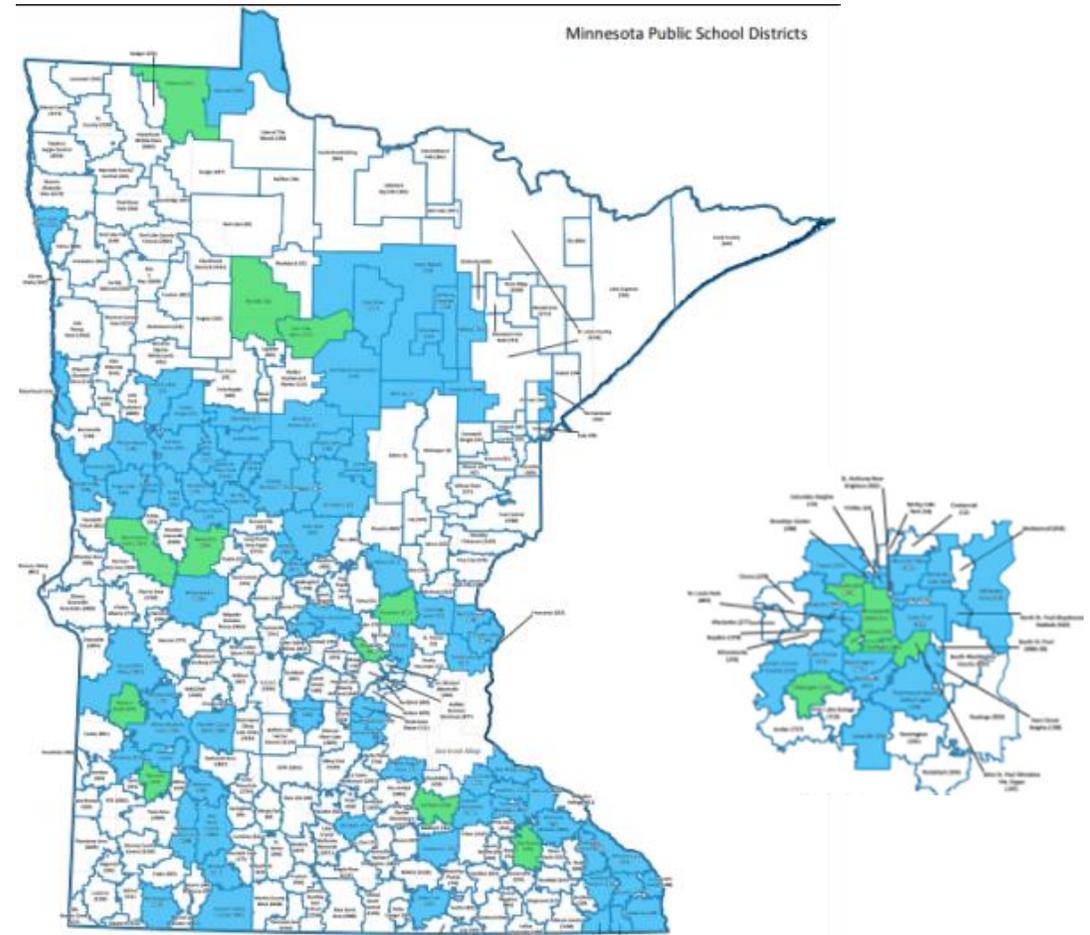


YST grantees

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Red Wing Ignite | Detroit Lakes Schools | Roseville Area Schools | Albert Lea Schools |
| Hutchinson Schools | Goodwill Industries | Mankato Public Schools | Cambridge-Isanti Schools |
| Twin West | Lakeville Schools | Chisago Lakes Schools | Fergus Falls Schools |
| White Bear Lake Schools | Monticello Schools | Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce | Great River School |
| Winona | North Branch Schools | Milaca Public Schools | Hennepin West Consortium |
| Elk River Schools | Princeton Schools | East Grand Forks Schools | Hermantown Schools |
| Forest Lake Schools | SW Metro District #288 | Otter Tail County | Itasca Area Schools Collaborative |
| Vadnais Heights Economic Development (VHEDC) | Hibbing Schools | Venture Academy | Wellstone High School |
| SW MN Private Industry Council | Boys & Girls Club of Central MN | Stillwater Area Schools | Moorhead Schools |
| Intermediate District #287 | Southeast Service Cooperative | Alexandria Schools | New Prague Schools |
| Bloomington Schools | American Nursing & Technical | Sourcewell | Parkers Prairie Schools |
| Ramsey County Workforce | Burnsville Schools | Edina Public Schools | Perham Schools |
| Genesys Works | ISD #112 East Carver Coop | Breckenridge Schools | ROCORI School District |
| Spark-Y | Owatonna Schools | Workforce Development Inc. | Staples-Motley Schools |
| Bemidji Schools | Career Solutions | Faribault Schools | |
| | | Windom Schools | |
| | | Minnewaska Schools | |

New YST grantees (round 8)

- Roseau School District
- Shakopee High School
- TrekNorth Jr. and Sr. High School
- CreateMPLS
- West St. Paul, Mendota Heights, Eagan Area Schools
- Marshall Public Schools
- Robbinsdale Area Schools
- Cass Lake-Bena High School
- Minneapolis Public Schools
- Dawson-Boyd Public Schools
- Rochester Public Schools
- West Central Area School District



Since start of program in 2017:

- **193,691** students provided with industry exposure.
- **78,402** students have completed industry-related classes.
- **7,775** students have earned an industry-related credential.
- **1,552** students have participated in a paid work experience.

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