

281—48.4 (256) Regional work-based learning intermediary network.

48.4(1) A regional work-based learning intermediary network shall prepare students for the workforce by connecting businesses and the education system and shall offer relevant, work-based learning activities to students and teachers within the region. The network shall:

a. Conduct a needs assessment in collaboration with school districts within the region to inform the development of core services. Evidence that a needs assessment was conducted shall be maintained and made available upon request by the department.

b. Provide core services as defined in rule 281—48.2(256).

c. Prepare students to make informed postsecondary education and career decisions. Services shall be integrated with other career exploration-related activities such as the student core curriculum plan and the career information and decision-making system developed and administered pursuant to Iowa Code section 279.61, where appropriate.

d. Build and sustain relationships between employers and local youth, the education system, and the community through communication and coordination.

e. Connect students to local career opportunities.

f. Provide a one-stop contact point for information useful to both educators and employers, including information on internships, job shadowing experiences, and other core services for students, particularly related to science, technology, engineering, or mathematics occupations, occupations related to critical infrastructure and commercial and residential construction, or targeted industries.

g. Facilitate the attainment of portable, industry-recognized credentials such as the National Career Readiness Certificate, where appropriate.

48.4(2) Work-based learning plan. Each network or consortium of networks shall annually submit a work-based learning plan to the department. Each plan shall detail how the intermediary network will provide core services to all school districts within the region and support the integration of job shadowing and other work-based learning activities into secondary career and technical education programs.

48.4(3) Funding. All funds are to be used to develop or expand work-based learning opportunities within the intermediary network region.

a. Match. Of the funds received pursuant to subrule 48.3(1), each regional work-based learning intermediary network shall contribute a match of resources equal to 25 percent pursuant to Iowa Code section 256.40(9). The financial resources used to provide the match may include private donations, in-kind contributions, or public moneys other than the moneys received pursuant to subrule 48.3(1).

b. Staffing. Funds may be used to support personnel responsible for the implementation of the intermediary network program components outlined under subrule 48.3(1).

48.4(4) Collaboration. Regional work-based learning intermediary networks shall work collaboratively with the statewide intermediary network and stakeholders. Evidence of collaboration shall be documented in each region's annual report.

48.4(5) Advisory council. Each regional work-based learning intermediary network shall establish an advisory council consisting of intermediary network stakeholders from business and industry representatives, including construction trade industry professionals, to provide guidance and assistance in developing the intermediary network's work-based learning plan. Advisory councils shall meet at least annually. Meeting minutes shall be maintained and be made available upon request by the department. The advisory council shall be subject to open meetings laws under Iowa Code chapter 21.

48.4(6) Annual report. Each regional work-based learning intermediary network shall submit an annual report to the department in a manner prescribed by the department. The report shall include, but not be limited to, performance metrics prescribed by the department and a summary of financial expenses.