## Shasta SELPA - WorkAbility I Policy

WorkAbility I (WAI) is a grant-funded transition program administered by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division. The program is for special education students aged 16 –22 years old, and promotes career awareness and exploration while students complete their education program. WAI provides students with opportunities for paid and work-based learning experiences, along with ongoing support and guidance from Employment Specialists. Students receive training and assistance with their transition to work or college.

The mission of WAI is to promote the involvement of key stakeholders, including students, families, educators, employers and other agencies in planning and implementing an array of services that will culminate in successful student transition to competitive integrated employment (CIE), lifelong learning, and quality of life

The WorkAbility team offers support to students who qualify, including assistance when applying to jobs, preparing for an interview, building a resume, answering college questions, and gaining paid work experience.

To qualify for a paid work experience:

- Students must be between the ages of 16-22;
- Students must attend a high school or program of the Shasta SELPA;
- Students must have an active IEP;
- Teachers must provide proof of the student's good attendance (85% or better) and grades (2.0 or better on the most recent report card); and,
- Student Workers under the age of 18 years old must obtain a work permit through their school site during the WorkAbility application process.

### Presentations

The WAI team can arrange presentations with classroom teachers or career counselors for groups of students. The presentations consist of an overview of the program, coaching on various vocational topics (they can customize to the teacher's or counselor's needs), and a career assessment (may be left for students to take at a later time or completed during the presentation). Presentations vary in length, but can be up to one hour long.

During presentations, the WAI can serve students by providing an “Array of Services” as defined by the WAI grant. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the California Education Code require the following Array of Services to be provided to consider a student as “served”:

- Career / Vocational Assessments;
- Employment / Post-Secondary Education Planning (High School only) in the School-Based Preparatory Experiences component; and,
- One or more services in the Career Preparation & Work-Based Learning Experiences and Collaboration / Youth Development & Leadership components.

At least one of these services must be directly provided by the WAI Program, or documentation must exist of WAI’s role in the indirect provision of the service.