

2024/2025 PROGRAM GUIDE

The School Works Program (School Works) provides wage subsidies to employers in Columbia Basin Trust's (the Trust) region to help them hire a full-time student on part-time basis throughout the school year (September to May) to provide opportunities for students to gain career-related work experience in the region.

This program is administered by College of the Rockies. For more information, call toll free 1.877.489.2687 ext. 3584 or email schoolworks@ourtrust.org.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Who can apply?

Small businesses, non-profits, First Nations communities and local governments with business headquarters located within Columbia Basin Trust's region ([map](#)).

When can I apply?

School works opens on **July 24, 2024, 1:00 p.m. PT / 2:00 p.m. MT.**

How much is the wage subsidy?

\$8.00/hour.

How many students can I hire through the program?

One.

When can the student start work?

The earliest start date is **September 3, 2024.**

How many hours per week can the student work?

Between one and 15 hours.

How long can the student work?

Between 12 and 38 weeks.

Does the program help me find the student?

No, you must identify and/or recruit and hire the appropriate student for the position.

Can I apply to hire an Apprentice student?

Yes; however, the [Apprentice Wage Subsidy Program](#) has a separate application form and eligibility.

What type of job can I hire a student for?

School Works is targeted at creating career-related work opportunities for students to gain meaningful work experience and provide strong benefits to participating employers.

What is career-related work?

Job opportunities supported by School Works will provide experience and learning opportunities to fuel future employment opportunities for the student you hire in a field related to their current education and/or career aspirations. These job opportunities will require a moderate level of skill and responsibility.

Who can apply?

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Employers Must:	Students Must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• be a business (with maximum 20 employees), local government, non-profit or First Nations community;• be open for business and be ready to have a student start work on the date indicated on the application;• operate, with business headquarters, in the Basin (map);• have existed for more than one year;• be a registered business/organization with a Revenue Canada business number;• be unable to hire a student without School Works funding;• indicate that hiring a student through the School Works will not displace a current employee;• demonstrate that the student’s work will take place within the Columbia Basin;• be able to supervise the student and provide a safe working environment;• not hire a relative unless the relative is supervised by someone other than the business owner;• adhere to all relevant labour laws, regulatory regulations and guidelines;• have a WorkSafeBC account in good standing by the time the student starts work;• if you currently have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must provide a clearance letter with your application (get the form here); and• if you don’t have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must obtain coverage and send us proof of it before the student starts work (register here).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• live in the Basin (map),• be a full-time high school or post-secondary student currently attending school in person in the Basin or online;• be legally entitled to work in Canada; and• be aged 15 or older before the employment start date.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

- The work must be career-related and provide opportunities for the employee to gain experience related to their chosen field of study or future career aspirations.
- Required qualifications and education requirements should reflect post-secondary study for post-secondary students.
- Entry level jobs are not eligible.
- The job description must clearly indicate work tasks, responsibilities and skills required.
- Tasks must not include personal services to the employer (for example, domestic services or childcare).
- The earliest start date for the student is September 3, 2024.
- The latest end date for the student is May 30, 2025.
- The subsidy will not be paid for students who have finished school for the year (for example, post-secondary students who end school in April 2024).

HOURS REQUIREMENTS

The intent of School Works is to provide the student with consecutive weeks of part-time employment during the school year to gain career-related experience.

- The student must work for a term lasting between 12 and 38 weeks.
- Subsidies can range from 180 to 570 hours of work per contract.
- During regular school weeks, the student may work from one to 15 hours per week.
- During school breaks (for example, Christmas and March break), the student may work up to 40 hours per week.
- The student may work statutory holidays (in compliance with labour laws) or additional days off school (according to the school calendar).
- Once a contribution agreement is signed, the employer must commit to offering the total hours of employment being subsidized for. If you are not able to commit to these hours, contact the coordinator immediately.

NOTE: If the student has special circumstances (e.g. person with diverse abilities) that require accommodation, we may consider fewer hours.

WORKSAFEBC REQUIREMENTS

You must have a WorkSafeBC account in good standing.

- If you currently have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must provide a clearance letter with your application. Get the form [here](#).
- If you don't have WorkSafeBC coverage, you must obtain coverage and send us proof of it before the student starts work. Register [here](#).

How does the subsidy work?

WAGES

If your application is successful, you will receive an \$8.00/hour wage subsidy. We will then expect you to top up this wage to the market wage rate for the position. Find wage rates under Explore Careers [here](#).

For example: In the Kootenay region, an accounting clerk is paid a median wage of \$21.00/hour, depending on skills and experience.

Wages should be commensurate to the level of required experience and based upon the higher level of skill, responsibility and education required to complete the work, and will likely be higher than minimum wage.

NOTE: The minimum wage in BC is \$17.40 effective, June 1, 2024.

Information regarding BC Minimum Wages and other BC Employment Standards can be found [here](#).

MANDATORY EMPLOYMENT-RELATED COSTS

Mandatory Employment-Related Costs (MERCs) include Employment Insurance, Canada Pension Plan, WorkSafeBC and 4% vacation pay.

If you receive a subsidy, we will reimburse you for these costs, calculated as part of the final claim process. They will be based on the total wage subsidy claimed, not the total wage you paid.

For example, if you pay a wage of \$25.00/hour, you will be reimbursed for costs calculated against the \$8.00 wage subsidy. You are responsible for additional costs related to the wage top-up.

FINANCIAL CLAIMS, PAYMENTS AND MONITORING

If your application is successful, you must submit a claim after 12 full weeks of employment, and up to two more claims during the employment period covering a minimum of 12 weeks each. We will determine the number of claims and claim dates based on individual contribution agreement start dates.

NOTE:

- We will not issue advance payments.
- We will monitor the employer and student in-person, through a virtual meeting or by phone.
- We will base financial reimbursements on satisfactory reporting requirements.
- Final claims must be submitted by June 30, 2025.

If your application is successful, we will provide you with further details on claims, payment and reporting processes.

How do I apply?

School Works opens on **Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. PT/2:00 p.m. MT**. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis until all funding for the program has been committed.

All applications must be submitted through our online application portal. Detailed instructions will be posted when the program opens at ourtrust.org/schoolworks.

We process applications on a first-received, first served basis.

- If your application requires clarification or further information, we will not consider it “received” until

you have provided all required information.

- You will receive an e-mail confirming the receipt of your application from the School Works Office.

NOTE: If you intend to hire a student later in the school year, don't wait to submit your application. Later start dates are permitted, as long as the work period for the student is at least 12 weeks.

To be successful, you must:

- Meet all eligibility requirements outlined above;
- Provide a safe and supervised employment environment;
- Provide career related work experience that will enhance the student's skills;
- Follow health-related protocols as required by public bodies;
- Pay a market wage rate; and
- Commit and be accountable to the terms of the School Works contribution agreement.

When will I know if my application has been approved?

We process applications on a continuous basis until the program is fully subscribed.

You will receive an e-mail confirming approval/decline of your application within 20 business days following the receipt of your completed application.

If your application requires clarification or further information we will be in touch however, **we will not consider it "received" until you have provided all required information.**

NOTE:

- College of the Rockies, Columbia Basin Trust and their agents shall not be obligated in any manner to any applicant whatsoever.
- College of the Rockies and Columbia Basin Trust reserve the right to fund all or none of any application submitted.
- Prioritization of applicants that have not received a wage subsidy from the Program in the past will be a factor in application review and adjudication.
- If your application is successful, you must enter into a contribution agreement with College of the Rockies and commit to offering the total hours of employment being subsidized.
- College of the Rockies is required by the Trust to complete a search at BC Corporate Registry.
- Registered companies are required to be in good standing with BC Corporate Registry.

Reminders:

- We assess the applications as they come in and continue until all funding for School Works has been committed.
- Be clear and succinct and use point form where appropriate in the application process.
- Be thorough and complete the application in full; incomplete applications will not be processed.
- Don't forget to upload an electronic copy your WorkSafeBC Compliance Letter with your online application (unless not yet covered by WorkSafeBC).

Questions?

Call us toll free 1.877.489.2687 ext. 3584 or email us at schoolworks@ourtrust.org.