

## **Overview of Research on the Effectiveness of Youth Employment and Training Programs**

Several useful studies on the impact of youth employment during the high school years have been published over the last dozen years with findings relating to educational attainment and future employment and income. These findings argue strongly for efforts to increase the availability of high-quality work experience for low-income, at-risk youth.

### **Common Themes:**

- Exposure to work and careers during high school has the potential to improve employment prospects and short, medium and long-term earnings for students.
- Work experience and work-related education have clear employment and income benefits for low-income students.
- Career-focused education has the potential to improve attendance, credit acquisition and graduation rates for high-risk students.
- Teens in low-income families have the least access to employment opportunities, especially jobs that are geographically convenient enough to allow combining part-time work and school.
- Contextual (e.g. hands-on) learning strategies can improve students' grades, attendance and graduation rates. Applied learning can increase student engagement as well as access to postsecondary education.

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