

Thomasville City Schools is fortunate to have a very successful Work-Based Learning program headed up by Mrs. Kay Larrimore. WBL in Thomasville City Schools is important because it provides our students with opportunities to develop an awareness of various jobs and careers while helping them to understand the skills and education required to be successful in those careers. It allows students to gain real world work experience that will help them to develop a key set of job-related skills that are essential in the workplace. Our Work-Based Learning program gives students hands-on experiences in a variety of formats including paid employment, job shadowing, and apprenticeships. Whatever the format, WBL gives students hands-on learning experience which connects what they are learning in the classroom with knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in the workplace.

The benefits of WBL is two-fold. Not only are the students gaining invaluable, work related skills and norms including soft skills that are important for success, but the local businesses and industry benefit by gaining a reliable workforce that is guided by the expertise of a Work-Based Learning Director. An experienced WBL coordinator prepares each student by coaching on soft skills while helping students transfer skills learned in the classroom into the work place. Students benefit by feedback provided in the work place as well as our WBL director. The success of the Work-Based Learning program in Thomasville City Schools has helped our program to grow to be one of the largest in the state of Alabama. Local business and industry have tapped into this resource to fill positions and apprenticeships forming working relationships while building a model of success for students and the workplace.

Extending our WBL program into a year round program would be tremendous. Currently, Thomasville City School students extend their job experiences and apprenticeships into the summer. They do so without the continuous guidance of our Work-Based Learning Coordinator.

Students continue to get feedback from the work place, but do not get the necessary guidance of the coordinator that is paramount for continuous growth for students. An extended, year-round program will benefit business and industry as well as our students by closing the current interruption of support and increase the level of success for everyone.

Sincerely,

Randall Fullington

Career and Technical Education Director

Thomasville City Schools