

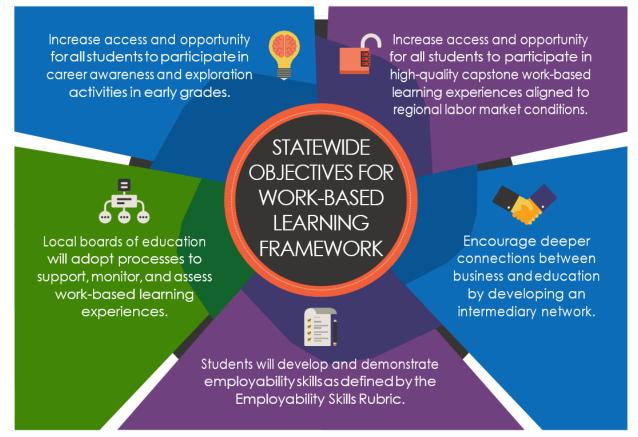
TEXAS WORK-BASED LEARNING FRAMEWORK



The Texas Education Agency developed the Texas Work-Based Learning Framework to support school districts and charter schools in the development and improvement of their work-based learning efforts. The framework establishes statewide objectives, provides a definition of work-based learning and a delineation of capstone experiences, demonstrates that work-based learning activities should occur beginning in early grades and continue through postsecondary education, explains the theory of work-based learning, and outlines the pillars of work-based learning success.



Illustration 1
STATEWIDE OBJECTIVES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING FRAMEWORK



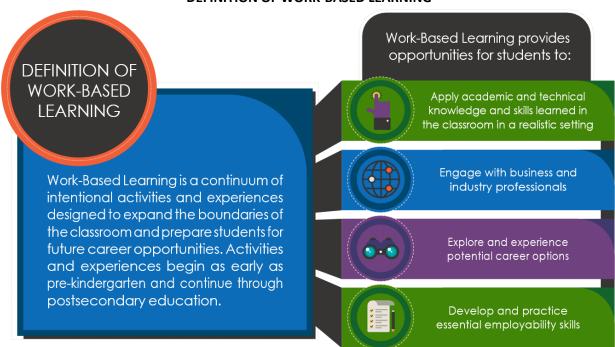
Statewide Objectives for Work-Based Learning Framework

The STATEWIDE OBJECTIVES FOR WORK-BASED LEARNING FRAMEWORK has five components:

- Increase access and opportunity for all students to participate in career awareness and exploration activities in early grades.
- Increase access and opportunity for all students to participate in high-quality capstone work-based learning experiences aligned to regional labor market conditions.
- Encourage deeper connections between business and education by developing an intermediary network.
- Students will develop and demonstrate employability skills as defined by the Employability Skills Rubric.
- Local boards of education will adopt processes to support, monitor, and assess work-based learning experiences.



Illustration 2 DEFINITION OF WORK-BASED LEARNING



Work Based Learning Defined

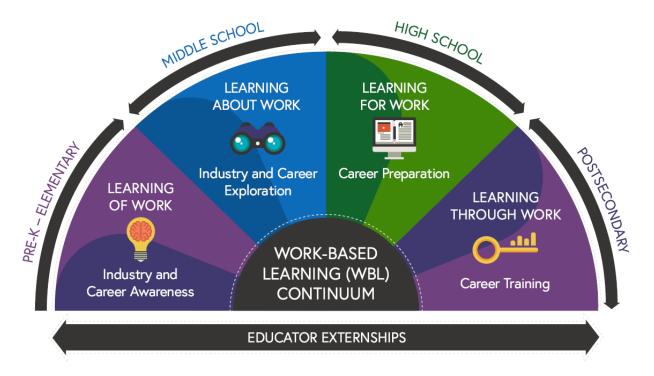
Work-Based Learning is a continuum of intentional activities and experiences designed to expand the boundaries of the classroom and prepare students for future career opportunities. Activities and experiences begin as early as pre-kindergarten and continue through postsecondary education.

Work-Based Learning provides opportunities for students to:

- Apply academic and technical knowledge and skills learned in the classroom in a realistic setting.
- Engage with business and industry professionals.
- Explore and experience potential career options.
- Develop and practice essential employability skills.



Illustration 3 WORK-BASED LEARNING (WBL) CONTINUUM



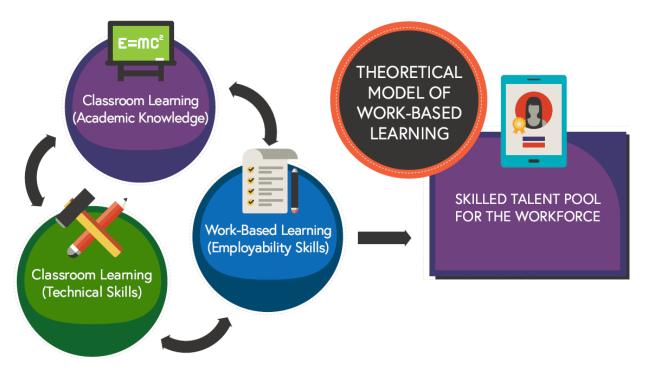
Work-Based Learning (WBL) Continuum

The Work-Based Continuum starts with pre-K and elementary grades, through middle and high school grades, and culminates in post-secondary. Educator externships span across all continuum levels.

- Pre-K/Elementary: industry and career awareness and learning of work.
- Middle School: industry and career exploration and learning about work.
- High-School: career preparation and learning for work.
- Postsecondary: career training and learning through work.



Illustration 4 THEORETICAL MODEL OF WORK-BASED LEARNING



Source: Adapted from Corinne Alfeld's Theoretical Model of Work-based Learning

Theoretical Model of Work-Based Learning

Three interconnected elements of work-based learning contribute to a skilled talent pool for the workforce.

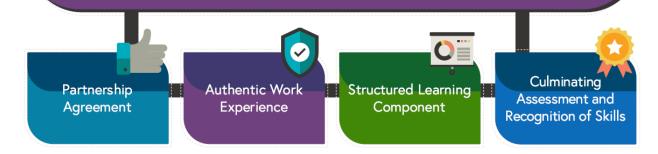
- Classroom Learning (Technical Skills).
- Classroom Learning (Academic Knowledge).
- Work-Based Learning (Employability Skills).



Illustration 5 ELEMENTS OF HIGH-QUALITY CAPSTONE WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

ELEMENTS OF HIGH-QUALITY CAPSTONE WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Capstone work-based learning experiences provide "sustained interactions with industry or community professionals in real workplace settings, to the extent practicable, or simulated environments at an educational institution that foster in-depth, firsthand engagement with the tasks required in a given career field, that are aligned to curriculum and instruction."



Source: Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (2018).

Source: Hauge, K. (2018). States Continue Advancing Strategies to Scale Work-Based Learning. Washington, DC: National Governors Association.

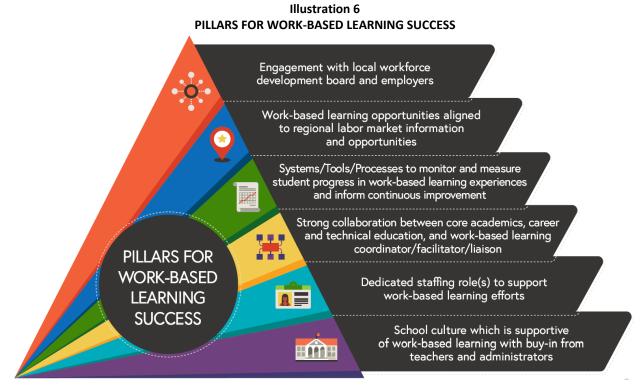
Elements of High-Quality Capstone Work-Based Learning experiences

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The four elements include:

- Partnership Agreements.
- Authentic Work Experiences.
- Structured Learning Components.
- Culminating Assessment and Recognition of Skills.





Pillars for Work-Based Learning Success

There are six pillars of Work-Based Learning success:

- Engagement with local workforce development board and employers.
- Work-based learning opportunities aligned to regional labor market information and opportunities.
- Systems/Tools/Processes to monitor and measure student progress in work-based learning experiences and inform continuous improvement.
- Strong collaboration between core academics, career and technical education, and work-based learning coordinator/facilitator/liaison.
- Dedicated staffing role(s) to support work-based learning efforts.
- School culture which is supportive of work-based learning with buy-in from teachers and administrators.