



2023 Teen Workforce Chats

Wayne County High School Aggregate Data

Forward Wayne County's Employability Coalition spent time at all five public county high schools talking with juniors about the world of work. These students were selected to participate based on aspects you would find in a typical employment setting: diversity, individual performance, education level, social skill, and gender. Here is what these students shared.

What do Students Think about Work?

- **Develops time management**
- **Builds social skills**
- **Teaches life lessons**
- **Learn work skills**
- **Gain self control**
- Poor coworker attitudes
- Leadership
- Work = Necessary evil
- Help control emotions
- Work/life balance
- Uncomfortable in the workspace
- Unclear communication
- Teamwork
- Stressful, timing
- Stress
- Sexual harassment
- Self Esteem
- Relationships
- Relationship/ 2nd family
- Pay does not equal amount of work
- Patience
- Organized
- No teamwork
- Money management
- Management needs to understand learning styles
- Learned about self/community entrepreneurship
- Lack of work ethic in coworkers
- Lack of relationships
- Home life matters
- Hard to balance
- Good/bad days
- Fairness
- Expectations unclear
- Drugs
- Detail oriented
- Deadlines
- Bosses not honest about wages
- Accountability

What are some positives of having a job?

- **Develop Friendships/Relationships**
- **Build Self Esteem**
- **Time burner/something to do**
- **Scholarship Opportunities**
- **Money - saving & spending**
- Life Skills
- Variety of jobs in Wayne County
- Try out careers
- Shows commitment
- Self management
- Personal Achievement
- Out of your shell
- Making good memories
- Make connections for future jobs/employers
- Leadership Skills
- Help to grow/build where you want to be
- Get to help people
- Flexible Schedule
- Exposure to other cultures/communities
- Detail Orientation
- Build work ethic



Where do students get employment information?

- **Peers**
- **TV ads**
- **Teachers/School**
- **Social media/TikTok**
- **Business signage**
- Newspaper
- Internet/Indeed
- Billboards
- Radio
- Paper Applications
- New Castle Career fair
- Family Business
- Drive thru
- Counselors
- Career fair

**Wayne County High Schools
35/50 students are employed**





What do employers need to know about working with young people?

- **We will speak up for ourselves**
- **We want more patience**
- **We want work/life balance**
- **We have a work ethic**
- **Treatment of others**
- Students have different experiences
- Some freedom to be creative and complete tasks
- Overworked
- Not as experienced
- Make sure managers are qualified
- Flexibility
- Earn respect/Abuse of Power
- Understanding minor hiring laws
- Understanding
- Trying to save for college/paid more
- Technology
- Receive education on finances
- Not going to take demeaning experiences
- Need transitional period
- More mature than you think
- Mental health
- Management properly hiring and firing
- Learn our skills and abilities
- Generational differences

What are some negatives of having a job?

- **Unfriendly customers**
- **Unfair**
- **Stressful**
- **Lazy Colleagues**
- **Favoritism**
- Bad manager
- Undermining by older coworkers
- Toxicity
- Too much time
- Racism
- Pay does not equal amount of work
- Overworked
- Overwhelming
- Not understanding bosses
- No Respect
- Looked down upon
- Lack of recognition
- Lack of good scheduling
- Judgement/pressure
- Intentional Misgendering
- Inflexibility
- Inefficiencies
- Illegal activities
- Gets in the way of social things
- Generational differences
- Employers don't follow DOL laws
- Distrust
- Dirty Workplace
- Abuse of power
- "We are work mules"

What do students need to be successful in a job?

- **Flexibility**
- **Respect**
- **More patience**
- **Mental health resources**
- **Good coworkers**
- Treatment at work
- Proper training
- Money
- Learn new skill
- Diversity
- Communication
- Common sense
- Boss/leadership
- Willing to work
- Vision
- Use of tech
- Trust
- Take risks or lose the chance
- Supporting health issues
- Social skills
- Responsibility
- Motivation
- Like the job
- Knowing your limits
- Increase resiliency
- Honesty
- Hold to your values
- Get stuff done
- Emotional control
- Challenge
- Benefits
- Being aware
- Appreciation/recognition
- Adaptability
- Ability to have fun

Do students want to work in Wayne County?

Yes - 6/50

- **Family**
- **Opportunities**
- **Know people**
- **Comfort**
- **Bilingual Opportunities**
- Pay
- Knowledge or area
- Being home

Maybe - 27/50

- **Go to college and maybe come back**
- **Opportunities**
- **Family and Significant other**
- **Money**
- **Explore**
- **Comfort**
- Travel
- Less risk
- Housing/ Cost of living
- Competitive Field
- Community
- Can work anywhere
- Ambition to grow

No - 17/50

- **Opportunities**
- **New and Different**
- **Low Wages**
- **Weather**
- **Home life/rough childhood**
- Work environment
- Nothing to do here for our age range
- I hate this place
- High Crime
- Careers





Centerville High School



Lincoln High School



Hagerstown High School



Northeastern High School



Richmond High School

Sponsored by:

