



## Cooperative Education

Cooperative education provides on-the-job training for students through an agreement among the school, employer, the parents/guardian and the students. Students receive content instruction related to their on-the-job training experiences. Like an internship, co-ops provide real work experience; however, a co-op allows students to receive academic credit. In addition, cooperatives assist students with their professional development and supplement the employer's workforce with emerging talent.

### Checklist for Success\*

#### For Employers

- \_\_\_\_\_ Use the Youth Business Connector to post cooperative education opportunities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Determine the basic skill sets required of student(s).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Interview and select or hire student(s).
- \_\_\_\_\_ Assist student(s) in working toward learning objectives.

#### For Educators

- \_\_\_\_\_ Identify interested and qualified students.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Use the Youth Business Connector to assist students in finding cooperative education opportunities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Connect students to work readiness-workshops within the school and/or community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Coordinate and implement concurrent learning activities at school. Support students in working toward workplace learning objectives.

#### For Students

- \_\_\_\_\_ Research and identify career areas of interest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ask your Career Development Coordinator to help you locate a cooperative education opportunity using the Youth Business Connector.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend required workshops and orientations.

\* This suggested checklist should be used as a guide and is not comprehensive. Each school and partner organization's process may vary.

***The Youth Business Connector is an initiative of Charlotte Works.***

[www.youthbusinessconnector.com](http://www.youthbusinessconnector.com)

**Additional Resources:**

- NC Public Schools: Career and Technical Education  
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/cte/curriculum/work-based/cooperative/>
- Central Piedmont Community College  
<http://www.cpcc.edu/electrical-electronics/cooperative-education>
- UNC Charlotte  
<https://career.uncc.edu/el>