

# WORKABILITY I

## A California Transition Program

### HISTORY

The California Department of Education completed a two-year study in 1981 that provided substantive information concerning the status of vocational programs for students with disabilities. Results of the study indicated that these students were not being adequately prepared for the labor market.

WorkAbility I was initiated in November 1981 as a pilot project to test the concept of work experience for youth with disabilities.

WorkAbility I continues to successfully conduct interagency coordination of services which began with a September 1982 Employment Development Department, State Department of Rehabilitation and California Department of Education non-financial interagency agreement.

In July 1999, a Task Force of WorkAbility I practitioners was organized to align WorkAbility with state and federal transition initiatives for youth with disabilities. As of August 2002, WorkAbility has funded high school and middle school programs.

Through a designation as one of the ten best transition programs of its type in the United States, WorkAbility I has received national recognition of its success in matching young adults with disabilities with employers who need workers.



### PROGRAM INFORMATION

The WorkAbility I program provides comprehensive pre-employment training, employment placement and follow-up for high school students in special education, who are making the transition from school to work, independent living and post secondary education or training.

All fifty-eight California counties are served by a WorkAbility I program.

The WorkAbility I program is funded and administered by the California Department of Education, Special Education Division.

### VISION OF WORKABILITY I

The Vision of the California Department of Education, Special Education Division is to enable all individuals with disabilities to successfully participate in a program which will prepare them for the workplace and independent living.

### GOALS OF WORKABILITY I

- Increase the percentage of students with disabilities employed.
- Increase the percentage of students with disabilities employed without subsidies.
- Increase the percentage of students with disabilities enrolled in post-secondary education.
- Increase the percentage of students with disabilities who report satisfaction with their independent living status and community involvement.

