



South Dakota Week of Work | April 20-24, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions for Educators

Last updated Sept. 13, 2019

Q: Are schools required to participate in the South Dakota Week of Work?

A: All South Dakota schools (public, private, BIE and tribal) are encouraged to participate in Week of Work activities. There is no mandatory participation requirement.

Q: If our school participates, are all 10th graders required to participate?

A: The South Dakota Week of Work has been created to encourage career exploration opportunities for all 10th graders in the state of South Dakota. There is no mandatory participation requirement.

Q: May we choose to participate in the Week of Work with a different grade level?

A: The South Dakota Week of Work has been created to encourage career exploration opportunities for all 10th graders in the state of South Dakota. However, ongoing career exploration, at all grade levels, is encouraged in South Dakota. There is no mandatory participation requirement.

Q: How will students sign up for a job shadow?

A: Students will not be able to register themselves. Sometime after Jan. 1, 2020, schools will register their students via the South Dakota Week of Work matching system, which they will be able to access via the Schools page at www.sdweekofwork.com. In fall 2019, initial registration efforts will focus on recruiting businesses to offer career exploration opportunities.

Q: How long should a job shadow last?

A: Week of Work job shadow opportunities are intended to be short-term, single-day career exploration experiences. They may be from one to a few hours in length and are at the discretion of the hosting local business or employer.

Q: We already provide work-based learning throughout the year. What should we do during the Week of Work?

A: Kudos to you and your district! You could intensify those efforts during the Week of Work, perhaps by scheduling job shadow opportunities during the week of April 20-24, 2020. Or you could celebrate the amazing opportunities you are already providing your students by highlighting those students' experiences through some kind of school gathering/assembly. For ideas, visit the Schools page at www.sdweekofwork.com.

Q: What preparation do students need before they participate in a job shadow?

A: Students should be ready and willing to treat a job shadow like a "real job" for the day. More information – along with tips for a good experience – are available in the South Dakota Week of Work Guide for Schools at <https://weekofworkdev.sd.gov/documents/SchoolsGuide.pdf>.

Q: Who, at a school, is responsible for coordinating Week of Work participation?

A: Each school that chooses to participate in Week of Work activities should designate a local coordinator, within their school. Some examples of who might fill this coordinator role include the high school principal, school counselor, sophomore class advisor, CTE coordinator, or Employability teacher. It is entirely up to schools' discretion who fills the coordinator role.

This person will help students register and help match them with local job shadows or other activities, within the Week of Work matching system, which will become accessible to schools sometime after Jan. 1, 2020, via the Schools page at www.sdweekofwork.com.

Q: We are in a rural area with few businesses. How might we participate in the Week of Work?

A: While coordinating one-on-one job shadow opportunities for all your 10th graders might pose a challenge, you could instead consider inviting local business people (banker, farmer, rancher, lawyer, etc.) to your school to speak to a sophomore class about their line of work.

In fall 2019, initial registration efforts are focused on recruiting businesses to offer career exploration opportunities. If you personally know local business people, feel free to encourage them to register for the Week of Work on the Business/Industry page at www.sdweekofwork.com.

Sometime after Jan. 1, 2020, the Week of Work matching system will become accessible to schools via the Schools page at www.sdweekofwork.com, so you will be able to see if local business leaders have signed up to serve as guest speakers or offer other career exploration opportunities.

Also, go ahead and get creative about what other opportunities might be available – local government? Your school as a work site?

Q: I know a business professional who would like to participate. What should I tell them?

A: That's great! Encourage them to visit www.sdweekofwork.com and sign up via the Business/Industry page.