

# Adolescent Vocational Exploration (AVE)

*At-risk youth (14-17) in economically depressed areas*



*Community-based career awareness program for high school students:*

- *Integrates job exploration into the classroom curriculum.*
- *Participants are exposed to possible career options and the search process.*

## Results



- *Participants demonstrated statistically significant gains in career decision-making skills as measured by the Career Decision-Making Skills Inventory.*

## The Program

Adolescent Vocational Exploration is a career-exploration, pre-employment program that exposes young people to job opportunities and careers. It encourages development of skills and motivation to compete in the work world, combining instruction on “how to’s” of the job market with vocational exploration in the community.

Participants study career areas through field trips and practical job placements. AVE incorporates a paid 6-week summer program built around Experienced-Based Career Education (EBCE), supported by a 10-month follow-up program. Payments/insurance for the summer program are provided by the NYS Department of Labor. A career educator organizes delivery of the curriculum through classroom instruction and works with a counselor, an aide, and approximately 50 participants. Supervised by the project director, a field placement coordinator:

- acquires local community resources,
- develops contacts with community business/employers, and
- arranges placement of the participants for career exploration.

## Professional Development

Staff members receive approximately 2-3 days of training in the EBCE model and other relevant school-to-work frameworks.

## Costs & Funding Options

Each site requires a minimum of 40 participants, a career educator, an aide, a program director, and a field placement coordinator. The community-based organization must assemble resources to provide employment experiences with stipends for participants. Books and career journals, consumables, tests and a scoring service are required. Possible funding sources for replication include ESEA Title VI.

## Learning Standards

### Career Development/ Occupational Studies:

1) be knowledgeable about the world of work, explore career-options, and relate personal skills, aptitudes, and abilities to future career decisions; 3b) choose a career major and acquire career-specific technical knowledge skills necessary to progress toward gainful employment, career advancement, and success in post-secondary programs.

## Contact

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