Founded in 1948, Goodwill Industries® of Southern NJ & Philadelphia is a community-based, 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to provide job training programs and career services that help prepare local residents with disabilities and disadvantages for competitive employment. At Goodwill, we believe every person deserves the opportunity to develop to their fullest potential and to experience the enhanced dignity and self-esteem that accompany meaningful work and economic independence.

For More Information

Please talk to the Child Study Team to find out if your child is eligible for Goodwill’s School-to-Work Program. If you would like more information on the program, please contact:

Cheryl Miller, Director of Mission Services
Goodwill Industries of Southern New Jersey & Philadelphia
856.439.0200 ext. 243
www.goodwillnj.org
About The Program

Entering the real world after high school can be a daunting task for just about any one. All too often, graduates simply do not know what to expect in the working world or what type of career they would like to pursue. Hence the birth of Goodwill's School-to-Work Program.

A joint venture with the Camden City Board of Education, Goodwill's School-to-Work Program blends academics with practical work experience to help bridge the gap between school and the workforce for special needs students from both Woodrow Wilson and Camden High Schools.

The program’s goals are:
- To guide students through academic curriculum and help them to graduate.
- To provide them with marketable job skills.
- To assist them in formulating a career plan and ultimately in securing employment in the community upon graduation.

To accomplish these goals, students spend half of their day in an academic classroom with Camden City high school teachers and the other half in a workroom supervised by Goodwill employment specialists. Here, they learn light industrial job skills performing piece work assignments for companies such as J & J Snack Foods, Comcast, Subaru of America and Destination Maternity. All students are paid for their work.

Q&A

How do I enroll my child in Goodwill's School-to-Work Program? What are the eligibility requirements?
Students must be referred by the Camden City School District's Child Study Team. Students in this program must have documented special education needs and be between the ages of 14-21.

Is there a fee to enroll my child in the program?
No. All fees are covered by the Camden City School District.

How many students can the School-to-Work Program accommodate?
While the program can accommodate up to 100 students, class size is approximately 13 students.

Where does Goodwill's School-to-Work Program take place?
The program is housed in Goodwill's 9,600 square foot state-of-the-art training facility located at 7186 N. Park Drive in Pennsauken, NJ. It includes classrooms, a lunchroom, a work room, offices, and a nurse's office. Camden City School buses transport students to and from the facility.

What time does the school day begin?
The school day runs Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and follows the same holiday/summer vacation schedule as the Camden City School District.

Are school lunches provided?
BOTH breakfast and lunch are provided daily.

What academic subjects are taught and by whom?
Teachers use the same academic curriculum utilized in Camden City public schools. This includes English, Mathematics, French, Art, Science, History and Physical Education. The School-to-Work Program is led by eight professional Camden City School District teachers including a full-time nurse. There are also eight para-professional Camden City School District staff members and four Goodwill employment specialists on site.

What types of hands-on job training do students receive?
Students receive light industrial job training performing contract work for area companies that have outsourced jobs to Goodwill. This includes assembly/disassembly, shrink wrapping, packaging, collating, bulk mailings and other tasks. Work ranges from packaging mylar balloons for Subaru of America to compiling promotional bags for Destination Maternity and assorted jobs for Comcast.

Beyond being a resume builder, all students are paid for their work on a piece rate basis.

In what other ways does Goodwill's School-to-Work Program help prepare students for the working world?
The program provides job shadowing opportunities for students at work sites throughout the community. Small groups of students are transported to and from places such as CVS, Marshall's and Goodwill Stores. Here, they experience what it is like to work in a retail establishment. They learn entry level tasks such as sorting and preparing merchandise for the sales floor; creating sales floor displays; and customer service skills.

How will Goodwill help my son/daughter upon high school graduation?
As high school graduation nears, Goodwill's seasoned team of employment specialists help students create a resume, develop a career plan, and learn interviewing techniques and important job search strategies. Our number one goal is to help all graduates find and retain employment. Every student receives job coaching, job placement and retention services. Past graduates of the program can be found working at Staples, Marshall's and Medco, to name a few.