

YST @ DLI

Youth Skills Training

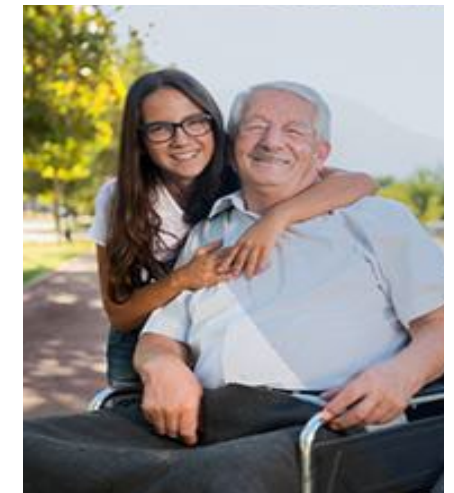
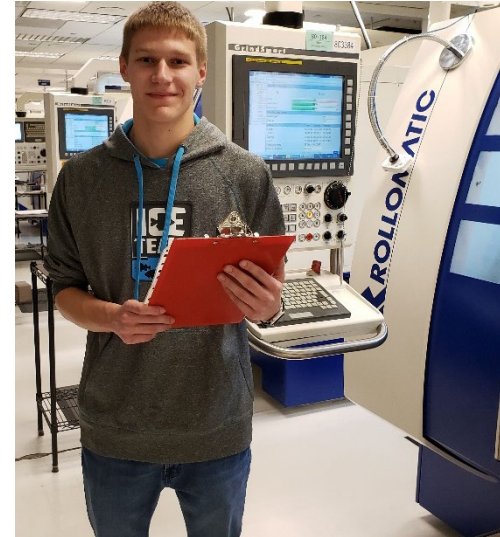
Winter 2025

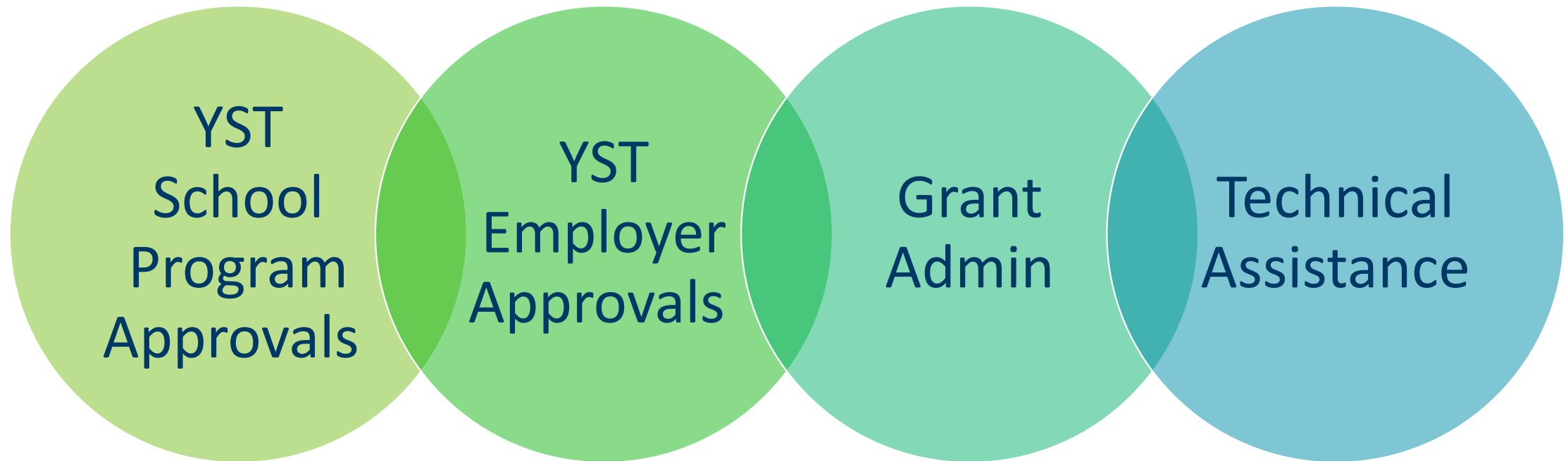
What is the Youth Skills Training (YST) program?

- Supporting partnerships between industry and education.
- Creating opportunities for students to learn about careers in industries.
- Providing industry-related classes for high school credit and safety training.
- Establishing safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences for student learners (**16-17 years old**).
- Developing a pathway for future talent for local industries.

Current YST eligible industries:

- ✓ **Advanced manufacturing**
- ✓ **Agriculture**
- ✓ **Automotive**
- ✓ **Health care**
- ✓ **Information technology**

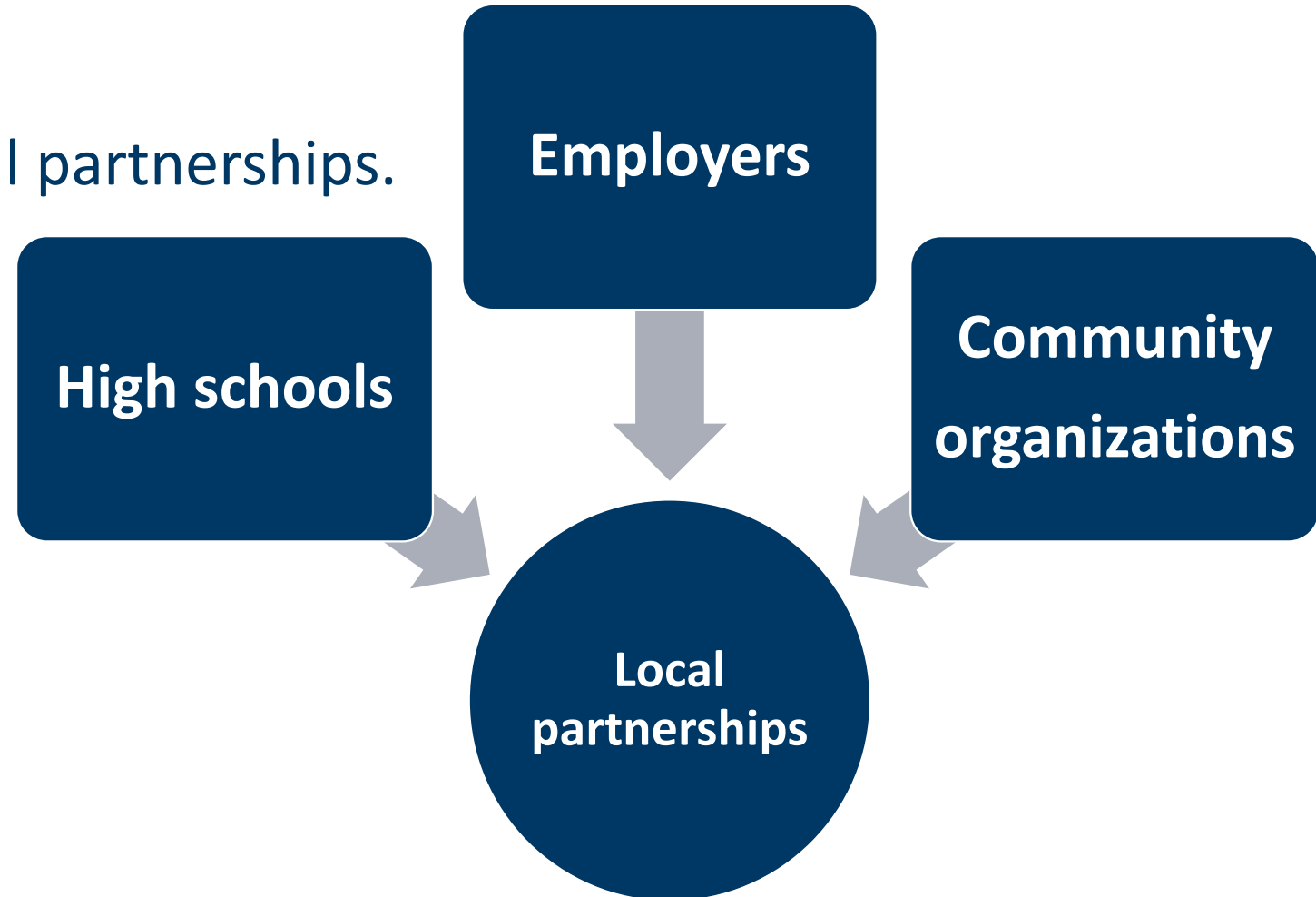




GOALS:

1. Support the creation of local partnerships.

High schools
Employers
Chambers of commerce
Workforce groups
Nonprofit organization
Postsecondary institutions



GOALS (cont.):

2. Introduce students to careers in high-growth, high-demand industries.
3. Prepare students for successful careers.
4. Address the shortage of skilled employees.



Learn and earn model

Develop paid work experiences for 16 and 17-year-old “student learners” to participate in safe, healthy and meaningful on-the-job training at employer sites.



School Requirements

1. Industry exposure opportunities for students of all ages
2. Industry-related classes for high school credit
3. Industry-recognized credential/certification
4. Paid work experience for students 16 years of age and older
5. At least 80% of eligible students in paid work experience graduate
6. At least 60% of students in paid work experience earn an industry credential

Industry Exposure

Education

Credential/Certification

Paid Work Experience

- Meaningful career exploration, coursework, certification and paid work experiences in a supported industry pathway
- YST employer approval process ensures safe and healthy work environments
- YST@DLI technical assistance is ongoing
- Joining the YST network: school and employer partners to build capacity with
- YST offers 2-year competitive grants annually

Employer requirements

1. Partner with local schools
2. Seek employer approval through YST program
3. Pay YST student learners at least minimum wage
4. Create a safe, healthy, meaningful paid work experience
5. Train and mentor student learners



By meeting YST requirements and receiving approval from DLI, student learners are allowed to work in industries that may otherwise be prohibited by child-labor laws.

YST programs can be approved with or without YST grant funding

Step 1:

Employer submits

- Proof of workers' compensation
- Equipment & tool review (Form 1)
- Pictures of equipment/tools

Step 2:

Safety meeting

- Review above information with YST staff and safety consultant

Safe, healthy and meaningful paid work experiences

A YST safety meeting is not:

- The YST safety meeting is not an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting does not result in citations or fines.
- The YST safety meeting will not trigger an OSHA inspection.
- The YST safety meeting is not entered into a data base or recorded for any purpose other than YST program approval.

- Grow talent pool from an earlier age
- Retain YST student learners as full-time employees after graduation
- DLI “stamp of approval” as a safe and healthy work environment for youth
- YST framework ensures that employees aren’t just interested, but have developed skills/investment in the industry
- Develop feeder school relationships – reliable source of recruitment
- Provide guidance on industry specific curriculum and certifications offered in local schools

School/employer/community partnership opportunities

- Tours of local employers
- Classroom speakers
- Job shadow experiences
- Consumable donations
- Training for teachers and staff
- Mentoring program
- Classroom instructor for the day
- Scholarship opportunities
- Informational Interviewing
- Open houses
- Monetary donations for (marketing, field trips, equipment etc.)

YST program grant funding:

- Total of \$1.5 million in grant funding awarded each year.
- Grants up to \$100,000 awarded to local partnerships.
- Two-year grant period
- 83 YST grants have been awarded throughout the state since the start of the program in 2017.

**Grant funding is not required to create a program or participate in YST.*

YST grant funding uses:

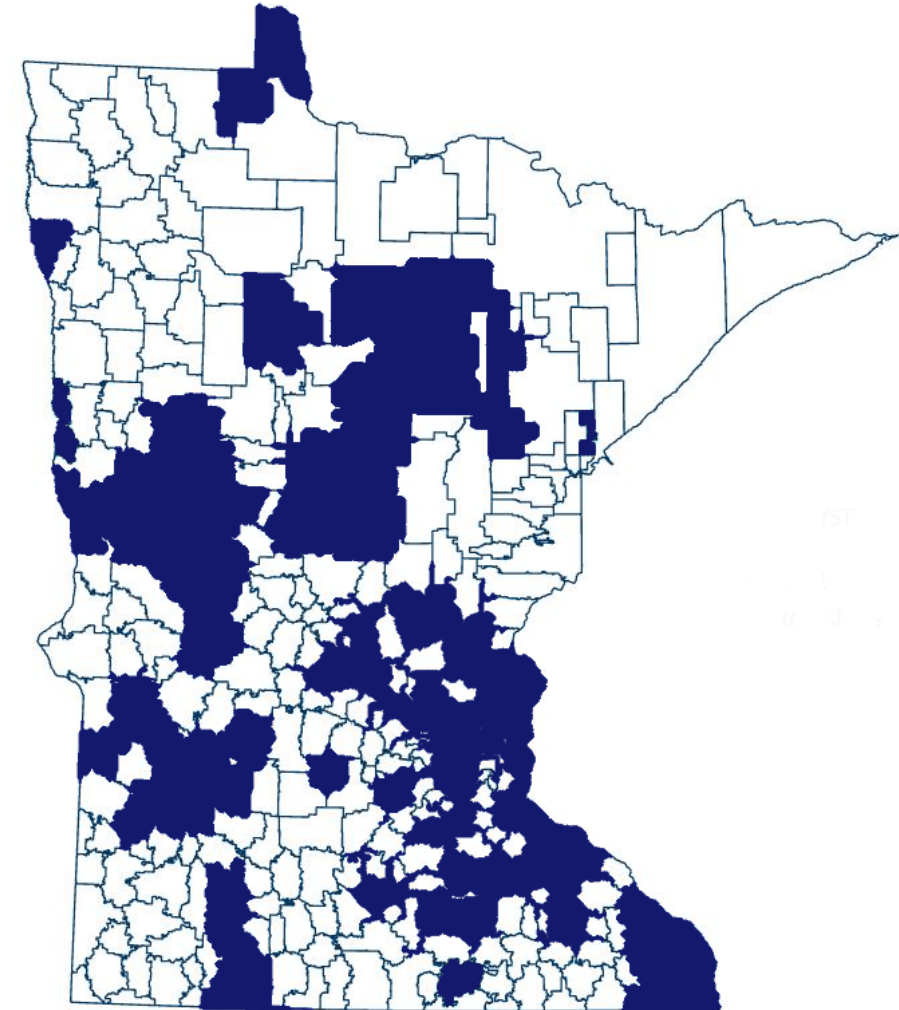
- Marketing and advertising programs
- Recruiting schools, employers and students
- Student transportation
- Staff to coordinate and monitor program outcomes
- Student credentials/certifications
- Supplies and curriculum

*****Funds cannot be used to pay student wages*****

New YST grantees (round 7)

Albert Lea Schools
Cambridge-Isanti Schools
Fergus Falls Schools
Great River School
Hennepin West Consortium
Hermantown Schools
Itasca Area Schools Collaborative
Wellstone High School – Minneapolis

Moorhead Schools
New Prague Schools
Parkers Prairie Schools
Perham Schools
ROCORI School District
Staples-Motley Schools



Since start of program in 2017:

- **138,756** students provided with industry exposure.
- **62,490** students have completed industry-related classes.
- **5,300** students have earned an industry-related credential.
- **1,339** students have participated in a paid work experience.

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