

Year One of State Afterschool/Act 78

Missisquoi Valley School District

Funding Spotlight: MVSD Summer Internship Program

The MVSD Summer Internship Program fosters hands-on community partnerships by connecting students with local businesses and organizations. This initiative is a direct response to local and statewide challenges including: the declining soft work skills in young people, a high need for community involvement and civic responsibility, and the aging workforce population in Vermont. **With this program, we are reigniting engagement amongst our young people and highlighting the myriad opportunities they have to find success and fulfillment here in their home state.**

This program requires **a culminating learning project that develops both technical and interpersonal skills**, while giving back to the community and providing insights into active citizenship. The district pays students for their work in this program, which allows for participating employers to hire extra support during the busy summer months, as well as develops a talent pipeline by engaging with motivated, home-grown future professionals.

We support students in the process from start to finish. Resumé building, application and interview support, onboarding skill development, leadership coaching, and weekly mentor check-ins throughout their internship experience. **This opportunity offers students five weeks of paid internship work at \$15/hr for 15- 20 hours a week.**

Summer Internships 2024 Reflection

Ten student interns (ages 14 - 17)

Six community partners

Opportunities in: recreation and library services, media and communication, financial services and administrative support, environmental conservation and forestry, agriculture and machinery, retail and marketing, etc.

“I’m learning about the daily stuff like paperwork and organizing and making phone calls. But I’m also learning that I can have fun at work, too.” – Student Intern



Please contact MVSD Director of Expanded Learning bethann.miller@mvsdschools.org or visit <http://afterschoolprograms.mvsdschools.org> for more information.

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Additional Projects in the 2024 - 2025 School Year

In addition to the MVSD Summer Internship Program, the State Afterschool/Act 78 grant has funded the following projects:

- **Staff position: Teen Leadership Liaison**
 - Routine 1:1 check-ins with all Teen Leaders
 - Internship Program management
 - Professional Development sessions for teens
 - CATALYST Future Readiness support
- **Teen Leadership & Mentorship Series**
 - Additional mentorship support for selected Teen Leaders placed in elementary schools
 - SMART goal development
- **CATALYST Future Readiness Center: MVU's drop-in after school program**
 - Job search support
 - Resumé building
 - Post-graduation coaching
 - Guest speakers
 - Mock interviews
 - etc.
- **MVU Youth Council**
 - Youth-led action-oriented curriculum
 - Develop peer support, advocacy, ethical persuasion skills
 - Data-informed community action planning
 - Community service projects
 - Substance abuse prevention work
 - Participatory budgeting process

“There are a lot of mixed generations that work here and it’s wonderful bringing in these young people. They fit right in and bring something new to the table.” -
Community Partner



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“The adults are really nice and good at giving us directions and teaching us what to do. It’s like having teachers at work.”



“It’s a great way to interact with the community and a great experience in learning about the real world and having a real job.”



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**“I’m trying a lot of different things
that I’ve never tried before. It’s
helpful to know what’s out there.”**

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