

IS A CAREER AS A JOB COACH RIGHT FOR YOU?



WHAT IS A JOB COACH?

A job coach works for a school, an intermediate unit, or a community rehabilitation provider (CRP) agency that helps students with disabilities find and keep jobs. They provide one-on-one support to help students perform their job tasks and become successful at work.

WHAT DOES A JOB COACH DO?

IN A SCHOOL, you could help students learn how to:

- Explore career options, practice interviewing, and fill out an application.
- Interact with co-workers, customers, and supervisors.
- Meet deadlines, follow a schedule, and complete tasks on time.
- Manage money, open a bank account, and pay bills.
- Complete job tasks, follow directions, and understand job responsibilities,

ON-THE-JOB, you could be responsible for:

- Matching a student to a job based on their strengths and skills.
- Building relationships with potential employers.
- Providing worksite safety.
- Setting up the workplace for the student.
- Assisting with transportation options.

YOU MIGHT ENJOY A CAREER AS A JOB COACH IF YOU LIKE:

- Helping others succeed.
- Working directly with people.
- Solving problems.
- Teaching and mentoring.
- Working in environments that bring new challenges and opportunities.
- Being part of a team that provides support.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD: MEET A CERTIFIED JOB COACH

“When we work together as a team, it's nice...to see not only the success for the client and what they're doing as an individual, but for the family as a whole. It's rewarding for everyone on the team.”

David Fox
Program Specialist
Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22

Click or scan the QR codes to watch the interviews.

David Fox
Program Specialist
Bucks County Intermediate Unit 22



Jodie Yeager
Work-Based Learning Coordinator
Allegheny Intermediate Unit 3



HOW TO BECOME A JOB COACH IN PENNSYLVANIA:

There are no specific educational requirements to become a Job Coach. If you are interested in this field, reach out to local intermediate units or school districts.

To help you get started:

Develop skills:

- Attend workshops on best practices for job coaching, disability awareness, communication strategies, and career development.
- Work with individuals with disabilities in employment settings.
- Build your understanding of disability laws and workplace accommodations.

Pursue education:

- Obtain a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Earn a [Certified Employment Support Professionals \(CESP\)](#) credential.
- Seek certification programs offered by the [Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators \(ACRE\)](#), or a program that focuses on supported employment and vocational rehabilitation.
- Pursue specialized training in supported employment services, such as Customized Employment or Discovery.



Gain experience:

- Volunteer at schools or organizations that serve students with disabilities.
- Shadow experienced job coaches.
- Explore professional networking opportunities through organizations such as:
 - [Association of People Supporting Employment First \(APSE\)](#)
 - [Certified Employment Support Professionals](#)
 - [Vocational Rehabilitation Networks](#)

