School-to-Career
Connecting the classroom & the workplace

BOSTON PRIVATE INDUSTRY COUNCIL

Partnering for student success
Together with the Mayor’s Office and the Boston Public Schools, the Boston Private Industry Council (PIC) coordinates summer and school-year jobs and internships for Boston public high school students. PIC Career Specialists, working at each of the Boston public high schools, guide and connect students with job opportunities. Year-round career readiness activities prepare students for the workplace and engage employers interested in the summer or school-year internship programs.

Job readiness activities
To prepare students for summer and school-year internships, the PIC provides career readiness activities throughout the year. Employer participation in career readiness activities introduces employers to PIC programs, and provides a preview of the benefits and ease of offering summer and school-year internships for high school students.

Job Shadow Day
Job Shadow Day is a half-day event designed to expose high school students to the world of work. Students “shadow” professionals during a work day to gain a first-hand look at the skills and knowledge required to succeed in a career.

Mock Interviews
Mock Interviews offer students the opportunity to practice interviewing and sharpen their skills with local professionals and community members. Teenagers are facing an extremely competitive labor market in Boston and it is critical that they learn to hone these skills before heading out into the marketplace.

Career Speakers
Career Speakers from a variety of industries share their career stories with high school students during class time throughout the year. Career Speakers help students envision their own path to success.

Other Activities
Career Specialists organize a variety of other career awareness and job readiness activities throughout the summer and school-year, including resume writing sessions, financial literacy workshops, and computer trainings.

“This is a quality program - from identifying top notch students to prepping them (and us) for the task and then providing great support and follow up.”
— Supervisor, Blue Cross Blue Shield of MA

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Summer Jobs and School-Year Internships
The PIC manages the private sector component of the Mayor’s Summer Jobs Program. Nearly 200 businesses hire more than 3,000 high school students each summer. The PIC also organizes school-year internships through various employer partners and schools. Although the names of the programs at each company are different, the concept is the same: they link the classroom to the workplace.

Tech Apprentice
Tech Apprentice is a six-week, paid summer internship program for tech-savvy Boston public high school students who want to work at local companies. These talented students are considering pursuing IT majors in college, and they need a work-based experience to help them understand the options available to them in the high-tech arena.

Work and Learning Programs
Many students need to work during the summer and school-year, but also need academic support. Instead of making students choose between one or the other, the PIC combines work and learning opportunities so students have the chance to earn money while also improving their academics.

Summer Learning Project
Through meaningful employment, dual enrollment courses, and wrap around socio-emotional workshops, the Summer Learning Project helps high school students envision themselves on a college campus and in a professional work place. Students enroll in dual-enrollment classes at Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology, work at a local community-based organization, and participate in workshops at the Freedom House.

Teen Leadership Institute
Through the Teen Leadership Institute started in 2013 by the PIC, the Summer Fund, and Hale Reservation, and supported by Bank of America, students improve their job preparedness skills in order to become effective camp counselors. The Teen Leadership Initiative provides students with the tools and training to help them achieve success in a summer job and beyond.