

The Vision of Passport to Safety

To live in a world where young people come home healthy and safe at the end of each day.

The Mission of Passport to Safety

To help eliminate needless injuries and preventable deaths of New York's working youth.



The Passport to Safety Program

- Focuses on improving health and safety outcomes for young people;
- Explores and challenges students on workplace health and safety in six lessons;
- Uses a variety of experiences, such as school lessons and work experience;
- Allows students to complete the program at school or work online;
- Poses challenging questions; and
- Assesses with a no-fail test – if an incorrect answer is chosen, the student is presented with information to read and is re-tested.

Successful participants are awarded a *Passport to Safety*, perfect for a résumé. This basic learning becomes the foundation of the other knowledge required to be safer and healthier workers.

To get involved, send an e-mail to PassporttoSafety@WCB.State.NY.US

How Do We Get Started?

School districts can make their students aware of the program by allowing teachers to invite students to participate in the pilot. A district's role is informational and promotional, not pedagogical: No curriculum changes are required to participate.

If a school agrees to participate, a teacher is asked to:

- Identify** a primary Passport to Safety contact person.
- Distribute an information sheet** to the volunteer class.
- Take 5 to 10 minutes to explain the program**, why participation is important and beneficial. Tell students their opinions are crucial, so we'd like to survey them.
- Distribute parental permission slips**. Parents involvement is important. They're advised we need contact information (i.e., student name, gender and age, as well as email and home address) so we can survey students.
- Schools are welcome to do more**. If a district can offer computer lab time for students to take a survey or complete a module, that helps ensure the program's success. We recognize the demands of the modern curriculum, however, so this is strictly optional.
- After three weeks**, the school will get an update showing how many students volunteered, how many started, and how many finished. We'll also report how many students took the survey.
- About two weeks after that**, teachers are asked to advise the students how many are participating, and urge 100% participation.
- There is follow-up after the program finishes**. The school will get a statement showing the level of participation, and can remind students to take the follow-up survey.
- Follow-up letters or emails will go to participants** urging them to complete the follow up survey.
- Schools that reach 90% participation will receive special recognition** from New York state. Those students should be congratulated for helping to shape public policy while learning about work place safety.



Passport to Safety



**Educating young workers.
Building safer workplaces.
Keeping young workers safe.**

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What is Passport to Safety?

Passport to Safety trains young workers to work safer, while providing valuable information employers can use to mitigate hazardous conditions. Conceived in Canada by a father who lost a son in a workplace accident, Passport to Safety is a web-based, international health and safety awareness program that individual countries are adapting in an effort to eliminate needless workplace injuries and deaths.

Passport to Safety does not replace employer-specific programs that address the particulars of a workplace; it simply educates young workers on general health and safety principles vital to any employment. Teens will learn how to identify and control hazards, and how to speak to employers if they encounter unsafe or unhealthy conditions. They'll also learn about child labor laws. The program

Trains with a web-based, self-paced learning and test program aimed at young people preparing to enter the workforce for the first time.

Explains how to identify hazardous situations and ergonomic requirements.

Highlights an employee's rights and responsibilities regarding workplace safety.

Works on an individual basis or as part of a coordinated approach through schools or workplaces.

Awards successful participants with a *Passport to Safety* certificate that demonstrates their basic awareness of workplace health and safety.

Encourages employers, businesses and communities to support a culture of safety.



Why is Passport to Safety Needed?

Do you remember teaching your children to cross the street? Or preparing your teenager for driving - lots of training and practice, learning the signs and the laws, and becoming aware of the hazards?

Young people face a whole new set of risks at work. They must know the signs, the laws, the rules, and the most common hazards before passing through the front door of a workplace.

Preventing workplace injuries and illnesses requires a cultural shift that includes both an understanding of the incidence and relevance of injury, plus the ability to change it. A range of strategies and environments must be addressed. Uniting the entire community, including business, creates the momentum likely to reduce injuries.

International experience shows young people are more likely to act, speak out or seek help for a workplace issue if they know their basic rights, and can determine whether they've been treated fairly and justly. **International data also indicates that school-age workers are twice as likely to get injured at work than older age groups.** Young people enter and return home from safer workplaces. This knowledge infuses a graduate's life experience, showing young people what to do and what to ask to stay safe at work.

Remember: Job-specific training is always required.

Passport to Safety is evidence-based. It reduces workplace deaths and injuries. For example, in Canada, a marked decline in fatalities and injuries of workers under 19 includes:

- ✓ 80% reduction in fatal injuries;
- ✓ 24% reduction in lost time due to injury;
- ✓ 12% drop in total injuries.

How does Passport to Safety Work?

Students complete the program online, at school, at work or at home, with a personal log-on and password. The course contains important material on safety. The learning environment poses challenging questions, based on what they've learned in school, or been told, and what they understand through a variety of work experiences. Students then apply what they know in situations.

In Passport to Safety, students work through a series of questions and review on-line materials to reinforce topics until they come through with 100% accuracy. It delivers a no-fail test, so choosing an incorrect answer generates more information and a retest. Alternatively, the information covered by the modules can be taught, then the students can sit for the test. The test should take no longer than 30 minutes.

Students work through the following six modules, or lessons, at their own pace:

1. Introduction to Safety
2. Know Your Rights
3. Recognizing Hazards
4. Taking Action in Emergencies
5. Making the Job Safer
6. Taking Action



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