What is Project SEARCH?

- A one-year transition from school to work program
- A partnership of support to maximize each student's potential
- A program that provides vocational training, education, and experience necessary to succeed in employment
- Real world, work experiences in Fifth Third Bank or Spectrum Health alongside local professionals

The Goal: Employment

Entrance Criteria:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a special education student in Kent County
- Qualify for Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)
- Agree to accept certificate of completion at the end of the school year
- Have excellent attendance
- Have independent personal hygiene & daily living skills
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills in the workplace
- Take direction from supervisors and be willing to change behavior
- Be able to communicate effectively
- Ability to utilize independent transportation
- Ability to pass a drug screen & felony check
- Meet business partner's employee requirements
- Complete application and interview process
- Desire and plan to work competitively in the community at the conclusion of the Project SEARCH program.

What does a typical day at Project SEARCH look like?

- 8:30-10:00: Classroom
  - Employment readiness skills
  - Life skills training
- 10:00-2:30: Worksite
  - 1/2 hour lunch in work area
  - Three 10-week job experiences
- 2:30-3:00: Classroom

Project SEARCH runs 5 days a week for the entire school year

To apply to Project SEARCH

- Review Entrance Criteria (to the left).
- Contact Cindy (calferink@hopenetwork.org 616-464-1176) or Project SEARCH teachers for a reference form and tour.
- Decide if Project SEARCH is a good fit for you. If unsure, talk to your parents, Teacher, Transition Coordinator, or MRS Counselor.
- Submit reference form.
- Qualified candidates will be invited to interview with Project SEARCH Selection Committee.

For more information:

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If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse gift will find a fitting place

- Margaret Mead