

Parents Make A Difference!

Parents have the most influence over a child's career making decisions. Research over the past 20 years indicates that parents play a major role in raising career aspirations for their sons and daughters.



Without parental approval or support, students are less likely to pursue diverse career possibilities. It's important for parents to learn about the many opportunities in today's schools to help students prepare for careers and postsecondary education/training. Parents can provide support to their students as they begin the career development process.

One way to do that is to help your student learn about the importance of **Career & Employability Skills**. These skills are sometimes called "Soft Skills" or "Workplace Skills". These skills are needed for success in the world of work and in life. These are the skills that employers are looking for in future employees.

The West Michigan Employability Skills Network have identified 12 Career & Employability Skills based upon U.S. Federal Government's O-NET Research, Talent 2025 Employability Skills Framework and regional research with local employers and educators. The idea is that skills will be learned, practiced and reflected upon in a thoughtful progression Kindergarten-12th grade.

Beginning this Fall, your school along with regional partners in Ottawa, Kent and Muskegon counties have specific teachers (grades 4th-6th) that are participating in the pilot beginning with the skill of **Responsibility**. Students will be connecting with local employers and participating in activities to learn, practice and reflect about the skill of Responsibility.

Parents can support this process by becoming familiar with the skill of Responsibility and the learning targets for the skill attached to this letter. In addition, take the opportunity to talk with your students about what they will be learning about this skill in class or through connections with employers. Also, you can reinforce this skill at home by:



TALKING ABOUT WHAT RESPONSIBILITY LOOKS LIKE IN YOUR WORKPLACE



TALKING ABOUT WHAT RESPONSIBILITY LOOKS LIKE IN AT HOME



PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO PRACTICE RESPONSIBILITY AT HOME WITH CHORES, COMPLETING HOMEWORK, ASSISTING WITH THE CARE OF SIBLINGS OR PETS, ETC.

We appreciate your support as we work with your students this year through this pilot work. For more information about the pilot and about this work is available at: <http://wmesn.org/> or through your student's classroom teacher or regional career support staff.

Thank you!

RESPONSIBILITY

DEF: Being dependable, committed to doing the job correctly and carefully, and being trustworthy, accountable and attentive to details.

	BASIC	BUILDING	THERE	BEYOND
1 COMPLETE & ON-TIME	With help, demonstrates partial understanding of the skills at the “Building” and “There” levels	May be <u>slightly late</u> ; Meets the <u>minimum requirements</u> ; <u>General understanding</u> of expectations; Seeks help	Completed <u>on time</u> ; Does <u>their best</u> ; <u>Knows exactly</u> what needs to be done; Collaborates with teammates	Completed <u>on time or ahead of schedule</u> ; <u>Challenges</u> themselves to put forth <u>maximum effort</u> ; Leads teammates
2 INTEGRITY	With help, demonstrates partial understanding of the skills at the “Building” and “There” levels	<u>Can usually be trusted</u> to complete a task; Works <u>independently and in a group</u> ; Knows the difference between <u>“right” and “wrong”</u>	<u>Can be trusted</u> to complete a task; Works <u>well with others</u> ; Seeks to <u>do what is “right”</u>	<u>Can be completely counted on</u> to finish a task; Viewed by teammates as a <u>leader</u> ; <u>Unwavering dedication</u> to do what is right
FOLLOW-THOUGH	With help, demonstrates partial understanding of the skills at the “Building” and “There” levels	<u>General understanding</u> of required tasks; <u>Usually focusses</u> on task at hand	<u>Understands</u> required tasks; <u>Focusses on what needs to be done</u> either by oneself or in a group	<u>Fully understands</u> required tasks; Focusses on what needs to be done and <u>helps others</u>
4 ACCOUNTABLE	With help, demonstrates partial understanding of the skills at the “Building” and “There” levels	<u>Often takes ownership</u> ; Basic understanding of not letting others down	<u>Takes ownership</u> ; Doesn’t want to let others down	Completes tasks with <u>little/no supervision</u> ; Doesn’t want to let themselves and others down