

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Program



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### **What does it mean to be a Project SEARCH intern?**

An intern is a student who has been accepted into the Project SEARCH Program, has a strong desire to work, has no behavioral/attendance concerns and is eager to gain employment through a work experience. Students in the Program will be referred to as interns by sponsoring parties as well as coworkers during the Program. They will be expected to participate in Spectrum Health Lakeland's work culture and do their best to uphold Spectrum Health Lakeland's vision, mission and will abide by all policies/procedures.

### **If a student is interested in Project SEARCH, what should the student do?**

Students should contact their high school special education teacher or district's special education director. They will provide you with application information.

### **Why is this considered as student's last year of school?**

The goal of Project SEARCH is to provide interns with marketable and transferable skills that lead to employment. Interested students should anticipate earning employment opportunities once they have completed their internship experience.

### **What school calendar schedule will student interns follow with Project SEARCH?**

Interns participating in the program will follow the Berrien RESA school year calendar. This calendar can be found by visiting [www.berrienresa.org](http://www.berrienresa.org).

### **What are the daily hours for Project SEARCH?**

Interns are expected to work at their job placement site from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. each work day. These times do not include transportation.

### **How do student interns get to Project SEARCH each day?**

Interns are responsible for their own transportation either through personal or public transportation. Project SEARCH does not provide transportation.

### **Will participants still be considered a student at their current school/district?**

The Project SEARCH program is a capstone experience for students. As such, Berrien RESA will become responsible for implementing the student's IEP as the operating district.

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### **Are program participants required to work with certain agencies in order to comply with the Program's structure?**

Yes. Of the participating partners, interns are required to have open cases with Michigan Rehabilitative Services and understand that Berrien RESA will serve them as their operating district. Based on the intern's need, other partners may provide additional support.

### **If I have more questions regarding Project SEARCH, who should I contact?**

The county coordinator of the Program is Craig Blasko, Berrien RESA's Supervisor of Ancillary Services. He can be reached at (269) 471-7725 ext. 1357 or [craig.blasko@berrienresa.org](mailto:craig.blasko@berrienresa.org).