

# PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

The Project SEARCH application process takes place each winter. Student applicants must meet the following requirements for consideration:

- Qualify for special education services
- Must be between 18 and 24 years old
- Desire to work in the community
- Complete the DVR (Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) application process
- Maintain appropriate behavior and social skills
- Be able to communicate effectively
- Take direction from supervisors
- Be able to pass drug and alcohol screenings and criminal background check
- Have independent personal hygiene, toileting and feeding skills
- Have previous work experience (including school, volunteer or paid work)
- Have access to independent transportation.



## Next steps

For more information about Project SEARCH, visit: [www.projectsearch.us](http://www.projectsearch.us)

If you have questions about the River Falls program, want to find out about the next Open House event, or would like an application form, call Fabreann Buffington at 715-307-6023 or email [Fabreann.buffington@rfsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:Fabreann.buffington@rfsd.k12.wi.us)

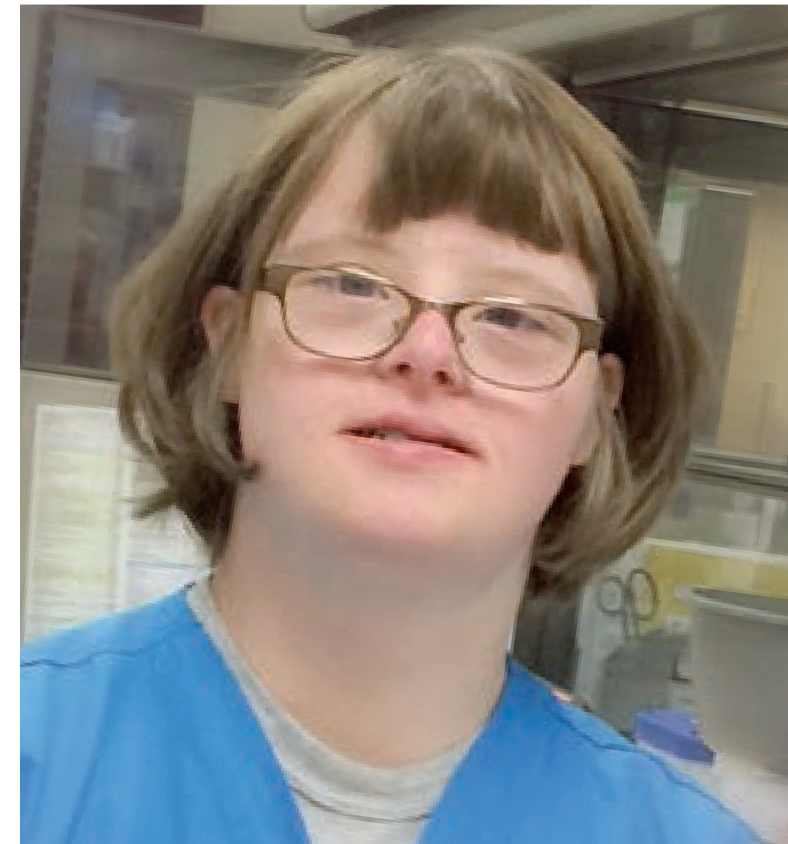


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RIVER FALLS AREA HOSPITAL

# Project SEARCH internship program for students with disabilities





Project SEARCH was first developed in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital to provide employment and education opportunities for individuals with significant disabilities. Project SEARCH came to western Wisconsin starting in 2015, through a collaboration of River Falls Area Hospital, WI Department of Workforce Development, Bridge, River Falls School District, Ellsworth School District, TMG and ContinuUs.

## OUR MISSION

Project SEARCH is dedicated to providing education and training to young adults with significant disabilities through an innovative workforce and career development model that benefits the individual, workplace and community. Our primary goal is to secure competitive employment outcomes for each of our student graduates.

## High School Transition Program

The High School Transition Program is a one-year education program for students with disabilities. Participants have met all academic requirements for graduation and spend a school year reporting to the Project SEARCH host business where they learn the skills needed to obtain competitive community employment at the conclusion of the program. The high school transition program combines classroom time with a school year-long unpaid internship at River Falls Area Hospital. This combination of instruction and immersion in the workplace setting thoroughly prepares enrollees to meet employer expectations.

In addition to classroom learning covering employability and independent living skills, each student will spend four hours per day working in an internship. Project SEARCH students gain experience working in a variety of settings.

## Classroom curriculum

Throughout the school year, interns participate in a functional academic curriculum that stresses employability and independent living skills. Major classroom focus areas include:

- Working responsibly
- Communicating effectively
- Solving problems and developing critical thinking skills
- Planning and managing a career
- Developing self-advocacy skills.