

Bridging the Gap

WITH THE BRIDGING ABILITIES PROGRAM

Schools in the Miami Valley region can take advantage of a new educational model that is proving to train students for critical job needs while also preparing them for life and, most importantly, to thrive beyond the classroom.

This Bridging Abilities program is geared toward students with disabilities and other barriers looking to hone their employment skills while earning a paycheck at the same time. TAC partnered with several local schools this past school year to pilot the program and found great success in preparing the participating students with real life skills they can use in future employment opportunities.

Workforce Introduction

Students are introduced to the workforce when they enter the program through hands-on jobs and practical training of transferable skills all within a supportive, hybrid learning-working environment.

Paid Work Opportunities

Those eligible receive the opportunity to be paid for their work without ever leaving the classroom.

Personal Empowerment

The employment, training and support provided through this program empower students to achieve their full potential. They complete this employment opportunity equipped to thrive in their next work environment.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Abilities Connection (TAC) is a nonprofit organization that serves people with disabilities and offers safe, inclusive workplaces to thrive. Our mission is to empower people with disabilities and other barriers to reach their full potential in the community settings of their choice.



BRIDGING
ABILITIES

“Our students found a place to take small steps and experience great success through the Bridging Abilities program with valued hands-on, work-based opportunities.”

- Tammy Stritenberger, Curriculum Supervisor, Montgomery County Educational Service Center

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- All work completed takes place in the student's classroom during normal school hours.
- Work schedules are determined by specific academic requirements.
- Students will earn a competitive wage on a weekly basis.
- TAC can assist with post-graduation transition and employment.

Employee Eligibility

- High school students with a disability or barrier that are enrolled in a school participating in the Bridging Abilities program.
- Students who complete a guided online application. Assistance will be provided on-site to help with this process if needed.
- Students with a valid work permit (if under 18), I-9 form and W4, which requires a current photo ID plus other supporting documents, such as a birth certificate or social security card.
- Students will participate in an interview and assessment.
- Students will undergo a drug test and background check, both paid for by TAC.

Bring Bridging Abilities to Your School!

Educators interested in piloting the program at their school can contact Transition Coordinator Michael Baker for more information at **937-521-4708** or **mbaker@tacind.com**.