

# NORTH SHORE YOUTH CAREER CENTER | WINTER 2022 UPDATES



North Shore Youth Career Center | 978-717-3308



## The State of Youth in the Workforce

The pandemic has significantly shifted many of the usual employment trends in the US. Similarly to adults, teen workers faced a sharp decline in available jobs beginning in March 2020. During the summer of 2020, when teen employment would traditionally pick up, it plunged to its lowest level since the Great Recession, erasing a decade's worth of slow gains. That summer, the unemployment rate among youth ages 16-19 was 30%.

With the shifting climate leading into the summer of 2021, jobs became more widely available, especially for teens who were more willing to take on opportunities that adults had passed on. By July 2021, over 5 million teens had jobs, 25% in leisure and hospitality. While teen employment seemingly rebounded last summer and the unemployment rate fell to 9.4%, it still remains lower than pre-pandemic years.

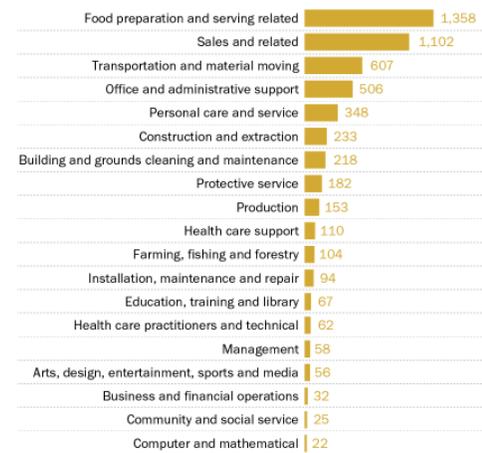
Most teen jobs fall into these clusters (right):

Youth employment is declining for a variety of reasons, beyond just pandemic related ones. Students today may be less likely to work than in previous cohorts due to broad shifts in labor supply. There are generally fewer entry level jobs than in the past. Another trend is differences in availability of and access to job opportunities based on race, class, and location. An increase in student responsibilities outside of school may preclude them from seeking out employment. Transportation issues also play a vital part in not finding employment: public transportation is not always reliable and is more sparse due to the pandemic.

In terms of summer employment, many schools end later in June and restart before Labor Day, and more students are enrolled in high school or college courses over the summer. Similarly, more teens are doing volunteer community service as part of their graduation requirements or to burnish their college applications and more students are taking unpaid internships, which the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) does not consider as employment. As of January 2022, according to BLS, the unemployment rate for teens has remained pretty steadily at around 10%, but as the general labor rate continues to decline, it is projected that youth employment may follow a similar trend.

### The jobs that U.S. teens worked in summer 2020

*Employment by occupation among U.S. 16- to 19-year-olds, July 2020, in thousands*



# Signal Success Curriculum

The youth career center has been using the signal success curriculum to help prepare our youth by teaching them core skills that have tremendous value in the workplace with even greater importance in day to day life. This curriculum has been in use for a decade now and has benefited thousands of youth in the North Shore area. At the core of signal success are four pivotal soft skills: communication, collaboration, initiative & dependability. With the new year upon us we desire to bring more of this curriculum to the youth of our community and with the intent being set we have already begun delivering workshops in North Shore schools. Of course, none of this would be possible without Commonwealth Corporation who has given us this curriculum along with the funding needed to ensure our youth learn these valuable skills as well as earn along the way. This year we are looking forward to guiding more youth through this program as to give them a clear focus for their future. Below, you will find examples of some of the activities the North Shore youth participate in to reflect on their own skills and values.

## Important Workplace Skills



## Think of Three Words that Describe You



## NEW SPACE SPOTLIGHT: NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

We are thrilled to announce that the North Shore Youth Career Center is moving to a new location at North Shore Community College in Lynn! Lynn is the original home of the YCC and while we left our offices in March 2020 to work remotely, it was always our goal to return to the city as our central location to work with youth across the North Shore. We will be located on the first floor of the McGee building room LE139 beginning in Spring 2022 and look forward to engaging with our new community at the college! Please feel free to drop in for a visit! We look forward to meeting you!

MassHire Youth Career Center is still working virtually due to the pandemic. If you need to reach any of us, please find our contact information below:

<https://tinyurl.com/nsyouthcareercenter>