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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

Newspaper in Education Presents  
**Inquizi**  
Brought to you by Adult, Career & Technical Education



SCHOOL Biz



**Ready for College or Ready for Work?**

For years people believed that students planning for college needed to take more advanced classes than those planning on going to work right out of high school. But in today's technical world and global economy, employers think differently. Many employers want their entry-level workers to have the same level of skills—especially in math and reading—as college-bound students. In fact researchers at the American College Testing Company now have hard evidence that proves all students need solid work skills, whether heading to college or work.

The Florida Ready to Work system of online courses and assessments equips students and proves they are prepared to succeed in reading, applied math, and locating information the skills employers want and colleges require. So whether you are heading for college, military or getting a job, after high school, the Florida Ready to Work credential proves you have the skills you need to succeed.

For more information on ACT's study, visit [www.w-win.com/pdf/ReadinessBrief.pdf](http://www.w-win.com/pdf/ReadinessBrief.pdf).

KIDZ Biz & Buzz



**Career Readiness for Middle and High School Students**

Whether in middle or high school, it's never too soon to start thinking about your future and career.

**Middle school students**, have you experienced the *Choices Career Planner*? Ask your teacher or guidance counselor about this online tool that helps you plan for your future. Visit [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org), click **Career Planner**, and select **Florida Choices Planner** to begin. FACTS.org is the home of the Florida Academic Counseling and Tracking for Students, and contains a wealth of information and tools.

**High school students**, it's not too soon to start working on your Florida Ready to Work credential. Visit [www.FloridaReadyToWork.com](http://www.FloridaReadyToWork.com) for more information, or visit the career counselor at your school.



InnoVators  
**FLORIDA READY TO WORK**

**Do you have dreams? Get the Advantage with Florida Ready to Work**

It is question and answer time. Here are the questions—but you'll have to find your own answers.

- Do you have dreams?
- Do you see yourself as an adult, driving a nice car and living in your own place?
- Do you want to travel to foreign lands, try exotic foods, and experience new cultures?
- Do you love new clothes? Do you have an Aeropostale appetite or a Wal-Mart budget? It's fun to dream. But dreams won't buy the car, the house, or the plane ticket. For that you'll need cash, and for most of us, getting cash means getting a job.

Time for more questions.

- Do you have plans for a summer job? Do you want to work a part-time job while you are in high school or college? Do you have plans for a career that will help pay for your dreams?
- Do you realize how tough the job market is today? Did you know that hundreds of applicants may apply for one single job opening? Do know how to get the advantage in the job-search race? Do you know what employers are looking for in their applicants?

You'll have to find your answers, but you can be sure that employers are looking for job seekers that can prove they have foundational skills; job seekers who can read well, apply solid math skills, and locate necessary information. Employers are also looking for job seekers with good work habits or "soft skills."

Florida Ready to Work is a new program that tests—and scores—your job skills and work habits. It's a way for you to prove to employers that you are truly ready to work. Florida Ready to Work provides job seekers like you with a credential signed by Governor Crist that gives you an advantage when applying for jobs. Many employers are committing to recruit and hire job seekers that hold the Florida Ready to Work credential.

Your Florida Department of Education now offers the Florida Ready to Work program free of charge. It's an online system, and your high schools are gearing up to offer the courses and assessments that help you earn the credential.

Got dreams? Get the advantage! Get ready to earn your Florida Ready to Work credential.

*\*All Manatee County high schools, Manatee Technical Institute, and Manatee Community College are registered as Florida Ready to Work assessment centers.*

**NOT SINCE THE LOTTERY HAVE THREE NUMBERS MEANT SO MUCH.**

Introducing Florida's New Employer Credentialing Program. Are you a 5-4-5? A 5-4-5? Find out with Florida Ready to Work. Florida Ready to Work is a new program that tests—and scores—your job skills. It will give you a competitive edge—in credential from the state of Florida that proves to employers that you have the right skills and the right attitude for the job you want. Show employers you have initiative. Get the credential and get the advantage. Please visit [www.FloridaReadytoWork.com](http://www.FloridaReadytoWork.com) for more information about this new, free program sponsored by the state of Florida.

DISCOVER the Future



**Career Pathways in Manatee County**

**Regional Careers:** Here are examples of total average wages in occupational groups in the Suncoast Workforce Region.

Occupational	Entry Level	Exper.
Utilities	\$14.73	\$35.84
Construction	\$11.24	\$22.82
Manufacturing	\$10.34	\$21.72
Transportation	\$10.87	\$21.76
Information	\$10.41	\$26.30
Finance and Insurance	\$12.41	\$30.20
Professional and Technical Services	\$10.30	\$29.65
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$10.11	\$26.64

Source: <http://fred.labormarketinfo.com>  
FL Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics & Wages Program

**Career Pathway:** Students desiring to participate in Florida Ready to Work can do so at these locations.

*Each high school in Manatee County  
Manatee Technical Institute  
Manatee Community College.*

\*Other Manatee schools may offer similar programs. Listed schools are related to today's issue.

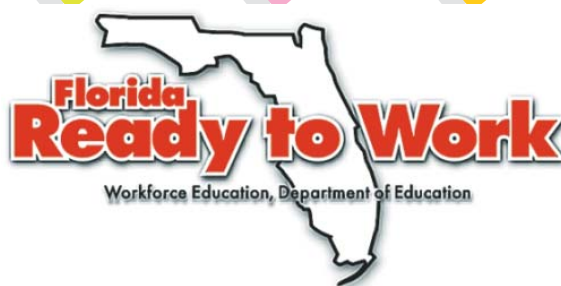
WEB Wise

Check out the following websites:

- [www.SuncoastReadytoWork.com](http://www.SuncoastReadytoWork.com)
- [www.FloridaReadytoWork.com](http://www.FloridaReadytoWork.com)
- [www.MyFloridaReadytoWork.com](http://www.MyFloridaReadytoWork.com)
- [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org)
- [www.ManateeACT.com](http://www.ManateeACT.com)

Explore IT

**Get Ready!**



Here is an overview of what it takes to earn the Florida Ready to Work credential.

- 1. Enroll today.**  
Ask your guidance counselor, career counselor, or visit <http://www.floridareadytowork.com> to find an Assessment Center near you. The program is free!
- 2. Take the placement tests.**  
There are three quick online placement tests that will measure your skills. Each takes about 15 minutes.
- 3. Build your skills.**  
To improve your skills and better your scores, use the free online courseware from any computer, anywhere, anytime.
- 4. Take the assessments.**  
To earn the credential, you must take three proctored assessments that measure your work and college readiness skills—Applied Mathematics, Locating Information and Reading for Information. Each takes about 1 hour.
- 5. Score 3-3-3 or better.**  
That's the minimum score to earn your credential. If you come up short, use the online courseware to improve your scores and then try again.
- 6. Take work habits.**  
This optional certification proves to employers and colleges that you have the right attitude and the initiative for the job.
- 7. Get the credential.**  
Your credential will be mailed to you. You are on your way!
- 8. Get the advantage.**  
Attach a copy of your credential to your college applications, résumé and job applications. Show colleges and employers that you are ready to work.



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