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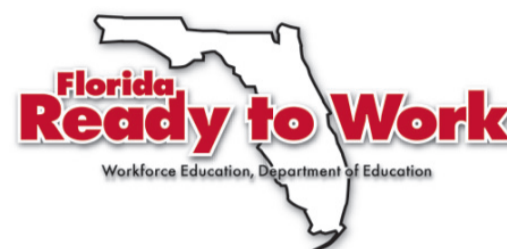
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THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MANATEE COUNTY FEATURES A STUDENT AND A CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER



Students, Are You Ready to Work?

The world of work is waiting for high school and college students. It's the way our economy works: businesses provide products and services to consumers willing to pay for them. But to produce those products and provide those services, businesses hire employees to do the job. Students—that's where you come in. You may not realize it, but one of the primary purposes of your education is to prepare you for the world of work.

The realm of job possibilities is endless. For example, a restaurant's service is providing food—and a restaurant worker's job may entail cooking, serving, collecting money; easy enough to understand. A hydraulic machinery manufacturer's job descriptions may not be so obvious to you as a high school student. A worker there may control complicated, computer-driven machines or check manufactured parts for quality control. Some employers hire for jobs that require special training—like those provided at Manatee Technical Institute or Manatee Community College. Regardless of the type of job or the type of business, however, nearly all employers have something in common: *they want employees who can read to understand, who can grasp basic math concepts, and who can find information if they need it.*

That's where Florida Ready to Work comes in. Florida Ready to Work is a program designed to help businesses find qualified employees, and to help students prepare for the world of work and show employees that you have what it takes to be a skilled worker. Here's how it works.

First, junior and senior high school students take a series of computerized assessments in these areas: reading for information, applied mathematics, and locating information. If you pass the assessments, you are awarded a Florida Ready to Work credential card. (There are three levels—Silver, Bronze, and Gold, depending on the student's performance.) Carrying the Ready to Work card is a sure sign to employers that you are ready to work!

If students do not pass, you are given the opportunity to take online tutorial courses specifically designed to reinforce your weak areas. The tutorials review concepts and information relating to reading, mathematics, and locating information. Students then retake the assessments and earn the Ready to Work credential card. If you are a junior or senior, watch for the Florida Ready to Work program at your high school. You'll definitely want to be a card-carrying, credentialed job applicant when you are ready to work. And by the way, go for the GOLD!

Employers, Look For the Florida Ready to Work Card

Businesses make a critical choice when they hire a new employee. The obvious and hidden costs to train a new worker can't be overlooked, and the lower the rate of turnover, the better for everyone. So it makes sense to find new ways to find qualified employees. (Retention, on the other hand, is another subject.)

The Florida's Ready to Work program addresses the workforce needs of businesses. The program's goal is to develop a stronger workforce, and in doing so, provide a way for employers to identify qualified applicants. The program is in the early stages of implementation, but watch for it! Watch for information in the mail and for applicants carrying the Florida Ready to Work card. That card means you have an applicant who can read for information, handle applied mathematics, and locate information. In other words, he or she is ready to work!

Yes, I'd like more information about Florida's Ready to Work Program

Clip and send to:

(For Manatee County)

Ready to Work
c/o Adult, Career & Technical Education
School District of Manatee County
215 Manatee Avenue West
Bradenton, FL 34205

(For Sarasota County)

Ready to Work
c/o Career & Technical Education
Sarasota County School District
1960 Landings Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34251

Name _____
Position or Title _____
Company or School _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email Address _____
Phone _____ Fax _____
 Manatee County Sarasota County

Florida Ready to Work

www.SuncoastReadyToWork.com info@SuncoastReadyToWork.com

Who Funds Florida Ready to Work?

Florida Ready to Work is part of a statewide effort to meet the workforce needs of employers and job seekers. It is funded by the Florida legislature, administered by the Florida Department of Education and the Agency for Workforce Innovation, and locally promoted by the Suncoast Workforce Board with the school districts of Manatee and Sarasota Counties. This means that there is no cost to students or employers to participate in Florida Ready to Work! Florida Ready to Work cards are signed by Governor Crist.

Explore
IT

Try it! Florida Ready to Work Tutorials

Go online and try a demonstration version of the Florida Ready to Work assessment courseware. You'll see that the tutorials are easy to understand. You will need a computer with an internet connection. Follow these steps:

1. Visit <http://www.myfloridareadytowork.com>

<http://www.myfloridareadytowork.com/>

2. Click the top button: **Win for WorkKeys Courseware.** (You may have to click it twice; the first time displays comments.)

WIN for WorkKeys Courseware

3. Click the **Click Here to Begin** button. (First-time users must download a safe "authorware plug-in" to proceed.)

WIN for WorkKeys
Florida Ready to Work Site
Click here to begin

4. Sign in with DEMO as the first name, DEMO as the last name, and 6789 as the PIN.

Please Login (enter your info and tab between the fields, press the Submit button when you are done)

Enter your First Name: Demo
(max: 20 characters)

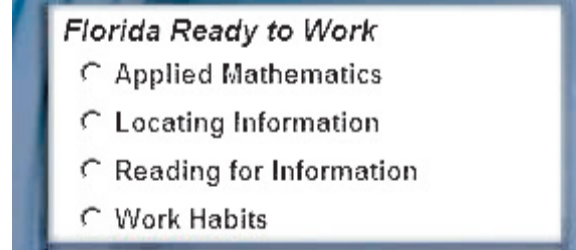
Last Name: Demo
(max: 20 characters)

Pin: 6789
(max: 12 numeric)

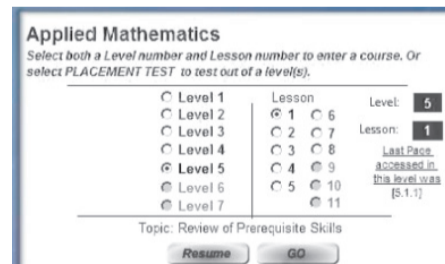
The SUBMIT button will be available only with a valid PIN (4 numeric digits or more)

SUBMIT

5. On the left-hand side, choose the title you would like to access. (While there are 10 titles, the Florida Ready to Work program focuses on **Applied Mathematics, Locating Information, and Reading for Information.**

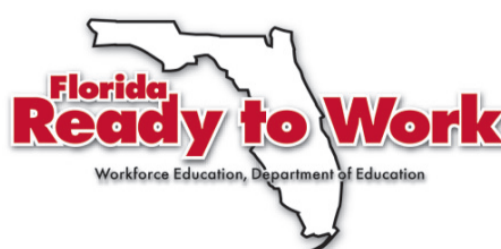


6. Once you make your topic selection, the right-hand column displays course levels and lessons. You can start from level one, or choose a higher level. After all, these are practice tutorials. Select a level and lesson number and click the go button.



7. Read the screens and follow instructions. Click the *continue* or *next* button to proceed through each lesson.

See how easy that was? You're getting ready to work! Problems? Call the WIN helpdesk at (888) 717-9461. Tell them you are trying out the demo.



WEB
Wise

Check out the following websites:

www.SuncoastReadyToWork.com
www.myfloridareadytowork.com

www.fldoe.org/news/2007/2007_04_05
Florida_RTW_Overview.pdf

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