

School-to-Career Connecting Activities

PREPARING TEENS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS

Connecting Activities is a collaboration between the Commonwealth's education and workforce development systems, designed to promote career readiness activities and generate employer-paid work experiences for high school students. In FY 2014, Connecting Activities supported programs in 195 urban, suburban and rural communities, connecting schools and employers in every region of the state.

In FY14, the state invested \$2.75 million in Connecting Activities, allowing close to 10,000 high school students to gain work experience through jobs and internships at over 3,500 employer sites. These school to career partnerships generated \$13,962,000 in employer paid wages: that is \$5 in private sector wages for every \$1 invested by the state.

Connecting Activities offers a sustainable and efficient way for the state to reverse the trend of high teen unemployment while getting students ready for college and careers. It leverages the resources of school districts to train, support and monitor students at work, and it provides schools access to a network of workforce professionals who know how to engage employers in education.

Connecting Activities generated the following outcomes in FY14:

- Employers invested \$13.9 million in wages to support student internships.
- 10,324 students were placed in paid internships at 3,510 employer sites.
- 7,663 students utilized the Massachusetts Work-Based Learning Plan on the job to formally connect classroom lessons to workplace learning.
- 2,706 employers sponsored career awareness and exploration activities for students including career days, job shadowing and guest speaker programs.

What is Needed

In 2007, School-to-Career Connecting Activities was able to serve 7,715 more teens and generate several million dollars more in private sector wages because the state appropriation was \$7.1 million.

This worthwhile investment should be restored: please contact your state legislators and ask them to support \$7.1 million in funding for School-to-Career Connecting Activities – State Budget Line Item 7027-0019.

To contact your legislators go to:

<http://www.malegislature.gov/people/findmylegislator>.

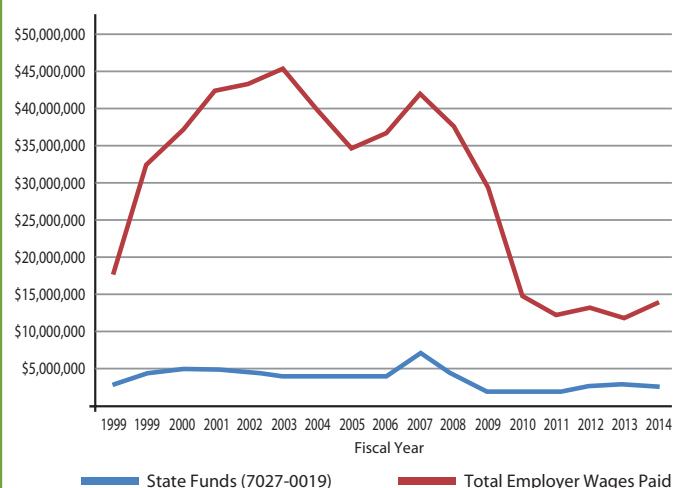
With sufficient resources, Connecting Activities could scale up to support all of the high school students in the Commonwealth. It is critical to the state's goal of ensuring that all students are both college and career ready by the end of high school, and it is a driver for employment for all students and for the development of multiple pathways for student success after high school.

THE WORKFORCE **SOLUTIONS** GROUP

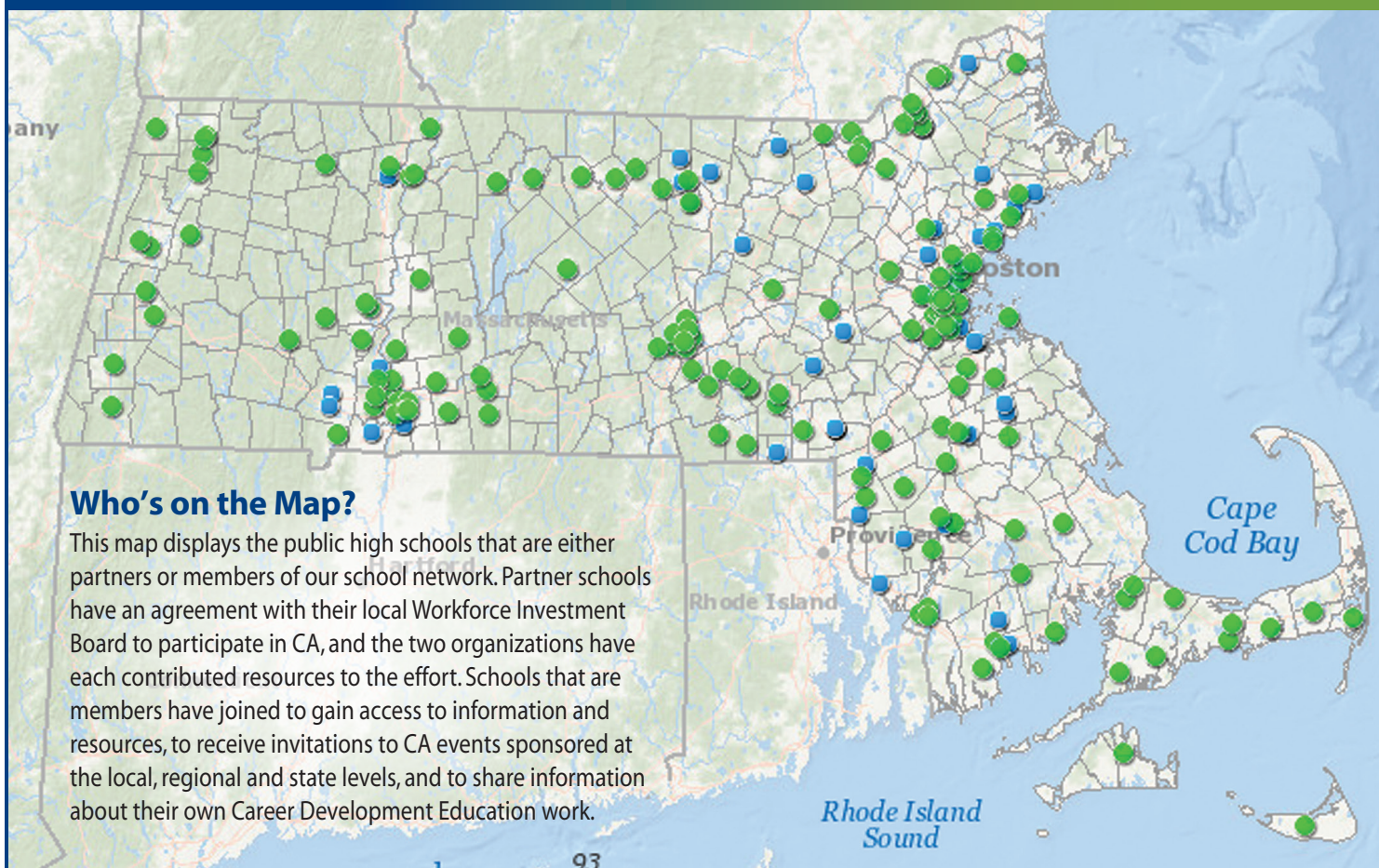
For more information about the
Workforce Solutions Group, please visit our website at
www.workforcesolutionsgrp.org



Private Sector Wages Through Connecting Activities



Massachusetts Connecting Activities Network Map



Trends in Employment Rates of Teens (16-19) in Massachusetts, 1999 to 2013 (Annual Averages, in %)

