

# Tulare County Office of Education

*Jim Vidak, County Superintendent of Schools*

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## **For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Robert Herman  
Public Information Officer  
(559) 733-6606 – office  
(559) 303-8568 – cell

Tulare County Office of Education Announces:

## **Community Based Instruction classes seek business partners**

Tulare County Office of Education's (TCOE) Community Based Instruction (CBI) classes are seeking business partners to provide students with meaningful work experiences. TCOE operates 11 CBI classes in Visalia, Tulare, Porterville, Exeter and Dinuba, helping students with special needs (ages 18-22) develop key life skills such as communication, job skills, character development, money management, way-finding, and personal health and fitness. The goal of the program is to prepare students to live as independently as possible following their graduations from CBI at age 22.

CBI classes are looking to partner with local business in two ways. CBI welcomes businesses that have simple piecework projects – large or small – such as mailings and assembly. These projects are completed in the Tulare County classrooms at no charge to the business partner.

CBIs also welcome businesses that can provide students with part-time work. CBI students have performed various jobs for a variety of local businesses, including restocking shelves at grocery stores and other retailers, working as groundskeepers and custodians in parks and community centers,

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assisting with food preparation in restaurants, and helping with maintenance in hair salons and retirement centers.

Students are paid through the WorkAbility I program, which is a grant administered by the California Department of Education. Students are available on a part-time basis depending on the business' needs. For those working in the community, CBI staff matches students with employers based on students' interests and skills, and provides initial on-site supervision.

Tulare County businesses interested in partnering with TCOE CBI classes for piecework or for part-time, on-site work are encouraged to call TCOE Administrator Sarah Hamilton at (559) 733-2910, extension 5128.

# TCOE#