



HIGH SCHOOL / HIGH TECH

High School/High Tech is an enrichment program for high school students with disabilities that encourages the exploration of science, engineering, and technology-related careers. Individuals with disabilities, as a group, experience a high level of unemployment and underemployment. Youth with disabilities who have early exposure to promising technology-related careers and are encouraged to evaluate and elevate their potential can plan and adjust their educational goals appropriately. High School/High Tech offers a mix of learning experiences that promote career exploration and broaden educational horizons.

Program activities include:

Tours and Site-Visits: Tours and site-visits to local high-tech companies give students exposure to the various careers and job opportunities that are out there. Early exposure to these careers along with visits to local colleges/universities/technical training schools allows students to better plan their education and prepare for their futures. Recent tours include: Woodforest Bank, Baker Hughes, Channel 8-Houston PBS, ABC - Channel 13, ExxonMobil, Houston Transtar, NASA-JSC, Texas Children's Hospital, Ocean Star Oil Rig Museum, CompuCycle, San Jacinto College, Universal Technical Institute, NRG Stadium, Olive Garden, City of Houston Health Department, University of Houston, Houston Police Department, Houston Mayors Office, and Vistex Graphics.

Summer Internships/Job Shadowing/Mentoring: Through the summer internship program students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, supervision and mentoring during a paid internship in a field they are interested in. Recent internship sites include: National Weather Research Center, Space Center Houston, Kinder Morgan, Technology for All, Houston Humane Society, Texas Children's Hospital, Hanger Clinic: Orthotics and Prosthetics, Armand Bayou Nature Center, Consolidated Communications, Distinct Abilities Academy, Shady Brook Veterinary Clinic, Western Airways, Egret Bay Veterinary Hospital, Starbucks, Aliana Pet Hospital, CVS, Iron Edge Group, North Channel Animal Hospital, Happy Faces Ranch, Red Oak Cafe, CCISD Technology Learning Center, and Reining Strength Therapeutic Horsemanship.

Campus Meetings: Campus-based activities help to aide high school students in transition from high school to post-secondary education and or employment. Some of the campus meeting topics include: Communication, Networking, Problem Solving/Critical Thinking, Professionalism, Résumé Writing, Interviewing, College Preparedness, Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Budgeting.

Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (R.A.M.P) is a branch of the High School/High Tech program. R.A.M.P is a career-focused mentoring program for youth with disabilities who are involved with or at-risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system. The majority of youth in the juvenile justice system have at least one disability, making all youth with disabilities a risk. The RAMP model utilizes a combination of group, peer, and one-on-one mentoring to promote the successful transition of R.A.M.P youth to employment, continued learning opportunities, and independent living. R.A.M.P youth meet weekly to participate in activities such as those listed above.

Current Status and Activities:

For the 2023-2024 school year, over 250 students from 10 school districts throughout the Houston area will be participating program activities with 15 of those students being placed in paid summer internships.

Participating School Districts:

Clear Creek ISD • Fort Bend ISD • Houston ISD • KIPP Schools • Magnolia ISD • Montgomery ISD
New Caney ISD • Pasadena ISD • Splendora ISD • Willis ISD

Supporters:

The Alcon Foundation, Inc. • AMD Foundation • Baker Hughes Inc. • CareSource • CVS • The
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Houston

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United Way of Greater Houston

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