

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

Students with disabilities who are interested in a one-year internship program at Berger Hospital and their parents can attend an information night on Thursday, Nov. 15, at the hospital.



The program, Project SEARCH, will take place during the 2018-19 school year and is open to students with disabilities who are 18 to 22 years old but haven't received their high school diploma yet.

"Essentially this is another year of high school but with a focus on job-training," said John Joyce with the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

"This evening is for current seniors but also for younger high school students so their parents are aware of the program for their children."

Students will be placed in jobs at Berger Hospital during the one-year internship and John said the goal is that at the end of the internship, students will have a job either at Berger or with another employer in Pickaway County.

The full school-year program allows students 10-week rotations among three departments to learn different skills and work with a variety of people.

Project SEARCH was started in 1996 at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and has grown to be offered at more than 300 sites across the United States and in Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland and Australia.

The job-placement rate for students in Project SEARCH has been high, with about a quarter of

Nov. 3, 2017

IF YOU GO

What: Project SEARCH Information Night
When: 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 15
Where: Berger Hospital, 600 N. Pickaway St., Circleville
For more information, call (740) 477-3353

the interns being employed at their host site after completing the internship and others gaining employment at other businesses in their community.

Project SEARCH Information Night will start at 6 p.m. and people from Berger, the Pickaway County Board of Developmental Disabilities and other agencies will be available to answer questions from students and parents.

John said the idea to offer Project SEARCH locally was the vision of board Superintendent Mike Pelcic and Marie Wilbanks, director of Service & Support Administration, Medicaid and Compliance.

Mike has said that the program is another opportunity to teach transition-age students job skills.

"Our focus is how can we prepare somebody for a life after school that is as mainstream as they can be," John said.

For more information on the Nov. 15 information night, call the Board of Developmental Disabilities at (740) 477-3353.

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