

I think we can all remember our first jobs and the lessons we learned, many of them the proverbial hard way LOL, from being employees. But, of course, we can also probably easily recall the intoxicating feeling of that first paycheck and the newfound freedom it brought us. I've worked at a doughnut shop (don't ask me what my weight was back then), various retail locations, and I've even delivered televisions ... each job taught me something important, and I'm grateful for each opportunity.

While our primary focus at Bay District Schools is obviously academics, we know how important it is to teach students the "soft skills" they need to succeed in the work world, and that's why we started sponsoring job fairs for students a few years ago.

With teenagers who need employment opportunities and employers who desperately need hard-working, trainable employees, we decided to step into the gap to bring the groups together. And it's been wildly successful!

More than 35 local businesses and organizations have already signed up to participate in this year's events. The job fairs are open during the school day to students only, but community members are welcome to stop by after school to also take advantage of these employers being housed in one convenient location.

Our job fairs include a plethora of community resources and agencies that support families, including, but not limited to, Alignment Bay, Career Source Gulf Coast, Gulf Coast State College, Florida State University-Panama City and all branches of the military. There's truly something for everyone!

All of our employers go out of their way to welcome the students, to be patient with them and to be encouraging. We're so grateful that they understand the value of investing in our youth, and we hope to continue this partnership for a long time to come.

I cannot tell you how much I enjoy seeing the students, smartly dressed and some with resumes in hand, interviewing for life-changing opportunities. Many businesses we include offer internships and apprenticeships that lead to high-paying positions for soon-to-be-graduates ready to enter the workforce. Some also offer signing bonuses and college scholarship money to new employees. Watching the students make these important connections is so exciting, and I really love to see the kids who come with their parents to secure their first jobs ever.

While getting a job is the primary point of the job fair, events like these also help students in a myriad of ways. For example, many of our secondary school teachers spend a few days before the job fairs teaching students how to write strong resumes, prepare for interviews, and make positive first impressions with potential employers. These skills are crucial for success in today's competitive job market, and job fairs can help students develop them in a supportive and interactive environment.

We hope you'll encourage all of the high school students in your lives to take advantage of these fantastic events. We LOVE connecting our students with these valuable opportunities, and we know our employers are grateful to have the chance to interview so many outstanding applicants in one afternoon!

As educators, we are responsible for providing our students with opportunities to develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to succeed in life. Job fairs are one powerful way to do so, and I encourage everyone in our community to get involved in these events!  
Stay safe, and God Bless!

Bay  
District  
Schools

# 2023 JOB FAIR

MAY 8TH, 2023 - MAY 12TH, 2023



BAY HIGH SCHOOL  
**MONDAY, MAY 8TH**  
**1 PM - 5 PM**  
1200 HARRISON AVE,  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401



J.R. ARNOLD HIGH SCHOOL  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 10TH**  
**1 PM - 5 PM**  
550 ALF COLEMAN RD,  
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32407



DEANE BOZEMAN SCHOOL  
**THURSDAY, MAY 11TH**  
**1 PM - 5 PM**  
13410 FL-77,  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32409



RUTHERFORD HIGH SCHOOL  
**FRIDAY, MAY 12TH**  
**1 PM - 5 PM**  
1000 SCHOOL AVE,  
PANAMA CITY, FL 32401

*MORE THAN 35 BUSINESSES SCHEDULED TO PARTICIPATE!*

