



Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection  
[www.hillside.com](http://www.hillside.com)

## **Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection Rochester and Syracuse City School Districts**

### **Goals**

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection (HW-SC) seeks to not only increase the high school graduation rate of its participants, but ensure that they leave high school with the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue post-secondary education or employment opportunities upon graduation.

### **About the Service**

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection identifies middle school students who are capable of success, but due to adverse circumstances or other difficulties need assistance focusing on their education and/or staying in school.

School-based youth advocates are assigned to help HW-SC students develop strategies for acquiring the skills needed to be successful in all aspects of their life. Advocates meet regularly with students to monitor academic and work performance. They help students identify career goals, develop positive study habits, overcome obstacles to learning, and they act as role models.

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection students in good academic standing are eligible for part-time jobs at local companies. Employment exposes students to career opportunities and enables them to develop marketable job skills, as well as earn money toward college tuition.

All students are required to attend weekly enrichment sessions with topic areas focused around career exploration, college preparation, job-readiness, and social and life skills. Worksite mentors offer an additional support system to help youth become successful employees.

While participating in HW-SC, students are also required to complete 20 hours of community service each year. Service projects help students understand and appreciate their role in shaping the future, and emphasize the importance of giving back to their community.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible students must possess a grade point average (GPA) of between 2.0 and 3.0 and demonstrate the need for program support as based on the Rochester and Syracuse City School Districts' "at-risk" indicators (academic, attendance, and suspensions) and HW-SC-identified indicators (social areas). Participation in HW-SC is voluntary and usually begins at the start of a student's seventh or eighth grade school year.

Referrals to HW-SC may be made by school staff, current program participants, HW-SC-employed youth advocates, or students may refer themselves.

### **For More Information**

Additional information on HW-SC is available by calling the main offices of Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection at 1-(800)-882-4593.

Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection is an affiliate of Hillside Family of Agencies (HFA), a leading provider of human services for at-risk children, youth, and their families. For more information on other services provided by HFA, call the Integration Center at (585) 256-7500.

*Services are supported by the New York State Department of Labor, United Way of Greater Rochester, the Monroe County Department of Social Services, Rochester City School District, and the New York State Office of Mental Health.*