

PAEC High School

Current Vocational Program Options 25/26

Below are the current work programs offered for the 25/26 school year:

West 40 Food Pantry

Students assist with unloading deliveries, sorting donations, and organizing food items. Participation helps students build workplace skills while earning hours toward the 40-hour volunteer service requirement for graduation from Proviso 209.

Firehouse Subs

Students gain hands-on experience in a fast-paced food service setting. They learn sandwich preparation, customer service, teamwork, time management, and workplace expectations.

Ms. Robert's Beauty Academy

Through Proviso 209's partnership with Ms. Robert's Beauty Academy, students attend daily from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. to work toward the 1,500 hours required for state cosmetology licensure. Two job coaches provide support during both academic instruction and hands-on training to ensure student success.

High School Janitorial Program

Students support building operations at the high school, elementary, and early childhood centers. Duties include trash and recycling removal, sweeping, sanitizing desks and surfaces, cleaning windows, vacuuming, maintaining gym mats, and keeping staff areas clean. Students develop responsibility, teamwork, and attention to detail.

Academy Janitorial Program

The Student Janitorial Training Program provides students with structured, hands-on custodial training within the school environment. Under the supervision of trained job coaches, students develop practical skills in cleaning procedures, equipment use, safety protocols, time management, and workplace professionalism.

RR Trade School – Melrose Park

Students attend RR Trade School in Melrose Park, where they are introduced to foundational trade skills and techniques. The program provides hands-on instruction and exposure to career pathways in skilled trades, preparing students for future employment opportunities.

Financial Literacy Program

Each semester, Jose Villa, Vice President of Retail Banking at Proviso Community Bank, leads a 10-week financial literacy course. Students learn essential life skills, including budgeting, money management, saving, banking basics, and responsible financial decision-making.

Ronald McDonald House

Students volunteer at Ronald McDonald House, assisting with cleaning and organizing common areas, working in the kitchen, stocking supplies, vacuuming, dusting furniture, cleaning the chapel, assembling care packages for children, and supporting storage room organization. This experience builds teamwork, service learning, and workplace readiness skills.

Level Up NAMI

Through this multi-session career readiness program, students explore their strengths, interests, and potential career pathways. They engage in lessons on workplace professionalism, complete foundational employment training, and participate in career assessments to support future planning.

Postsecondary Options and Career Fair

Each year, our high school hosts a postsecondary transition fair that brings together local colleges and universities, trade schools, apprenticeship opportunities, workforce training programs (both public and private), and community service organizations. The event provides students and families with access to a wide range of resources to support planning for education, employment, and independent living after graduation.