



Summer 2025 Internship FAQ Page

What is the high school summer professional internship?

The Austin Chamber has partnered with Austin ISD to create a 6 week, paid professional internship program for rising 10-12th grade students running from June 9 to July 26. Students work 20 hours a week at their internship site while also being supported by career coaches. The summer internship program is an opportunity to help prepare students for the workforce through hands-on training, skills development, and meaningful work experience. These experiences allow students to explore various career paths, gain practical skills, and develop a deeper understanding of industry expectations. Students are able to earn course credit through a culminating capstone project.

Why is the Chamber getting involved in student internships?

Last year, the superintendent of Austin ISD, Matias Segura, asked the chamber to provide internships for students that reflect the diverse industry landscape in Austin.. We are committed to providing these opportunities by utilizing the chamber's vast network to create a program that is mutually beneficial for both students and employers.

Why should I participate?

High school interns bring fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn. By investing in high school students, you are tapping into a diverse pool of talent and increasing the exposure and visibility of your business to the community. Interns can assist with various tasks, freeing up time for full-time employees to focus on higher-level projects. Taking on interns shows a commitment to investing in the next generation of professionals. As a participating organization, your business will be featured in press releases, media segments, and blog posts. Each company will also be recognized in our annual State of Education and Talent event.

Do I have to be a chamber member to participate?

No, you do not need to be a member. Our priority is finding businesses that can provide optimal learning experiences for students across various industries.

What students are eligible?

Current 9th-11th grade AISD students may apply. Every applicant goes through a competitive application & vetting process before being matched with an employer. In addition, all students undergo a comprehensive full-day, workplace training program before starting their internships. Throughout the program, students complete weekly reflections, meet with career coaches, and complete a capstone project to receive high school course credit.

What kind of commitment is required?

The summer professional internship opportunity is a 6-week program, running from early June to the end of July. In order to provide students with an authentic career learning experience and allow for professional growth we ask that each business designate a staff member to serve as the intern supervisor. The designated supervisor is required to meet weekly with their interns, arrange at least three networking chats, and provide two performance evaluations (mid and final program) to help facilitate their professional growth. We provide each

company with a variety of resources and tools of support, such as a structured curriculum and trained CTE teachers who serve as career coaches to help set students and their supervisors up for success.

What is the cost?

We ask that each company make a donation of \$2,500 per student to AISD's EdFund to cover the student stipend (\$2,000) and the cost of program operations (\$500). If your organization is unable to cover this cost, we have spots available for companies in high-demand industries. If you cannot commit to this summer's program but would like to be considered for future internships, externships, or other career-based learning experiences, please complete the form below.

We are also looking for businesses willing to donate to AISD's Edfund to sponsor a student internship in a high-demand industry. This will allow us to offer more internship spots to students.

How are students paid and onboarded?

Students are hired and paid through AISD who acts as the employer. All Human Resource requirements are handled by the district including background checks. Students are paid two stipends throughout the program.

What if I can't host an intern this summer, can I still contribute? How can I stay informed?

Yes, there are a variety of ways you can contribute. You can support the program financially by donating to the internship scholarship fund through the AISD EdFund. The cost to host and pay one student is approximately \$2,500 for the summer. You can also volunteer your time. We are looking for career professionals to help lead PD session as part of our full-day student training session on June 9th. You can also support the program by spreading the word to other employers, we are always looking for new partners.

How can I get involved?

Please complete [the Summer Internship Employer Form](#) and a member of our team will contact you for the next steps. You may also email our Manager of Education and Workforce Policy, Eric Hale, with any questions ehale@austinchamber.com