

**Health & Safety Awareness for Working Teens**

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**Young Worker Program**

**Department of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences**

**School of Public Health, University of Washington**

Seattle, Washington

[www.uvworksafe.com](http://www.uvworksafe.com)

**Washington State Department of Labor and Industries**

Olympia, Washington

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**Developed by:**

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**Dear Educator,**

Thank you for choosing to use the *Health and Safety Awareness for Working Teens* curriculum. This curriculum is a basic guide designed to assist Washington State educators with teaching basic concepts about workplace health and safety and sexual harassment. By teaching this curriculum, your students will be better prepared to deal with hazards and communication issues in the workplace and in the classroom.

This curriculum is designed for use with students in grades 9 through 12. Please be aware that if you have students who are 18 years old or older, some units covering child labor laws may not apply to them. The information covered in this curriculum is relevant to all students whether they are currently working or not.

The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries has provided the funds necessary to develop and distribute this curriculum to you. In order to measure its effectiveness in the future, we may ask for your cooperation in conducting a curriculum assessment.

In the future if you would like to refer other educators to these curriculum materials, please direct them to our young worker web site ([www.uwworksafes.com](http://www.uwworksafes.com)). The curriculum materials can be downloaded from this site.

Thank you for your commitment to teach this important information to your students.

Sincerely,

Darren Linker  
Program Manager  
Young Worker Program  
Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences  
School of Public Health  
University of Washington



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES**

Employment Standards Program

*P.O. Box 44510 Olympia Washington 98504-4510; Phone: 360.902.5316*  
*[www.LNI.wa.gov/scs/workstandards/teenworker.htm](http://www.LNI.wa.gov/scs/workstandards/teenworker.htm)*

January 24, 2010

Dear Teacher:

In the course of using this material, many issues about child labor and workplace health and safety laws may arise. Students may realize that some of the job duties assigned to them are prohibited by law due to their age, or possibly that the restrictions for allowable work hours are being violated by their employer. If this is the case, you have the right on their behalf, to contact the Industrial Relations Agent (IRA) assigned to your area to report these possible violations. The list of area Labor & Industries' (L&I) offices with agents who can help you can be found on our web page, [www.lni.wa.gov/home/direct.htm](http://www.lni.wa.gov/home/direct.htm), or in the blue government section of the white pages. Often, a complaint about possible child labor violations will lead to an investigation of the situation. If other health and safety issues or concerns are also thought to be present, a referral may be made to a regional health and safety inspector. Your identity can remain confidential if you chose. Also, you should inform students that they also have the right to call Labor and Industries (L&I) if they ever have questions or concerns about the child labor laws or other health and safety regulations and whether or not their employer is following them appropriately. Teens have the right to the appropriate wage, as well as rest and meal breaks, too. Agents are also frequently available to come to a classroom to talk to students.

If you have questions or concerns about how to handle a particular situation, you may also contact me for assistance.

Have Fun With This Curriculum!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary E. Miller".

Mary Miller, RN, MN  
Occupational Health Nurse  
[mmar235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:mmar235@lni.wa.gov)  
360.902.6041

## Acknowledgements

Many of the activities in this curriculum have been adapted from curriculums developed by other organizations also concerned with educating teens about workplace safety and health issues. These include:

*Youth@Work: Talking Safety*

Young Worker Safety Resource Center

*Starting Safely: Teaching Youth about Workplace Safety and Health*

Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards

The following people also contributed to the development of this curriculum:

- **Darren Linker**, Program Manager, Young Worker Program  
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- **Kristen Bergsman**, Curriculum Developer  
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