

TEACHER EXTERNSHIP 2026

July 13–16, 2026

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce Teacher Externship Program was designed to promote the philosophy of connecting business and education. As we work to champion the development of future talent, it is more critical than ever for educators to gain insights into career paths, the training/education required for those careers, and the skills needed to successfully enter the workforce.

The Teacher Externship invites middle school and high school educators, counselors, and administrators to connect with area businesses by experiencing industries and professional fields outside of their normal school environment. The program is designed so that you can take your experiences in area businesses back to your school to better prepare your students for some of the incredible opportunities that exist in this area!



“The Externship Program is some of the best professional development I have had in my 20+ years of teaching! Being able to hear from businesses what they are seeing in new employees and what they NEED from new employees was invaluable. Those companies became part of my professional network.”

— Julia Staats, Nixa High School

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Exposure to leadership of various departments and functions within a local business
- Collaboration and valuable connections with area business leaders and teachers from other districts
- Opportunities to see the business world outside of the education field and gain experiences that will help students prepare for the workforce
- Numerous business connections that educators can contact for real-world applications of lessons they teach in their classrooms



TENTATIVE AGENDA

MONDAY, JULY 13

Program orientation at Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce and industry field trips.

TUESDAY, JULY 14

Full day at assigned business location.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

Full day at second assigned business location.

THURSDAY, JULY 16

Debrief and closing.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Fall Summit to reconnect with peers and business partners.

NEED ANOTHER REASON TO PARTICIPATE?

Teachers are paid **\$700** for completion of the four-day summer externship in July, attendance at the 2026 Fall Summit, and a continuing education project with externship participants.

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