

HB 5 Webinar #2 Q & A
March 26, 2015

Q: Are some local workforce commissions not able to attend career fairs? The reason I ask is because I have invited the Harlingen Workforce Solutions, and they say they can't attend due to staff shortage. I have invited them 2 years in a row. (Last year and the year before.)

A: It's up to each local Workforce Solutions office to decide which events they are able to attend. We will be working with the local Workforce Solutions offices to see what assistance we can provide when they cannot be there. In some cases, we might be able to send someone from Austin. We definitely can provide labor force and career exploration information when we attend. We just like to involve the local offices as much as possible for this type of information.

Q: What do you mean by "inappropriate" jobs or employers? What kinds of local employers or jobs are not relevant at a school career fair?

A: All jobs are relevant at a school career fair, but the reference to "appropriate" businesses pertains to those that support industry in that area. You would not want to bring in businesses or colleges that will not serve the local workforce. We look for businesses and education entities that are relevant to the area in this way.

Specifically, we want to ensure that the industries and occupations that are showcased at a career fair are those that will be in demand once the students who attend the fair reach the age in which they will enter the workforce. That is why it is so important to understand which industries and occupations are projected to experience growth in both job opportunities as well as wages, rather than to highlight those occupations or industries that are diminishing or would only offer very limited job opportunities later. We are in no way attempting to insinuate that any job is inappropriate, but we do recognize that based on the labor market information in each region, there are some occupations that would be deemed more appropriate than others for the people in those communities should they choose to remain in those areas in the future.