

Career Online High School

In the current year, 12 students have enrolled in Solano County Library's *Career Online High School* and over 20 are in the assessment process. This is a program brought to public libraries by Gale, a part of Cengage Learning. Part of the world's first accredited, private online school district, *Career Online High School* is specifically designed to reengage adults into the education system and prepare them for entry into post-secondary career education or the workforce.

We are proposing to continue a partnership with the California State Library to fund this opportunity for 20 students. With a \$ 11,000 contribution from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, we will be able to offer this opportunity to this next group of students.

Solano County Library and the Vallejo Friends of the Library, in partnership with the California State Library work together toward scholarships for *Career Online High School* to qualified learners looking to earn a high school diploma and advance their careers.

Once enrolled, *Career Online High School* pairs each student with an Academic Coach, who assists with developing an individual career plan, offers ongoing guidance and encouragement, evaluates performance, and connects the learner with the resources needed to demonstrate mastery of the course material.

Classes are supported by board-certified instructors and students have 24/7 access to the online learning platform. Coursework begins in one of eight high-growth, high-demand career fields (across a wide spectrum from child care and education to certified transportation), before progressing to the core academic subjects. Many students are able to graduate in as few as 4 to 6 months by transferring in previously earned high school credits.

What is Career Online High School?

Career Online High School (COHS) is an online high school diploma and career certification program offering free enrollment to qualified students through their local public libraries.

Public libraries receive access to scholarships (on a matching basis) to offer to eligible community members. 48 California library jurisdictions including Solano County Library are currently participating in this program.



Supervisor Hannigan presenting High School Diploma to Justin Fowler.



Who can apply to COHS?

Applicants need to display a strong desire to achieve a high school diploma. They must be a California resident and have a Solano County Library card. Applicants must be at least 19 years old and have successfully completed 8th grade.

How are students selected for the program?

Prospective students must complete an online COHS self-assessment. Once the assessment is completed, prospective students are contacted by the Solano County Library COHS Coordinator and if eligible are given a link to a two-week prerequisite course. Those who pass the prerequisite course with a score of 70% or above are interviewed in person to determine if they will receive a scholarship. Successful completion of the prerequisite course does not guarantee a scholarship will be awarded.

*I've been given back something I lost a long time ago.
My ability to believe in myself. – Amanda*

What is the difference between a GED and high school diploma?

While both the GED and the high school diploma are important, there are several differences between them: among the most significant is the fact that some colleges, institutions, and organizations require a high school diploma. In addition to providing a high school diploma, COHS gives students the benefit of earning a career certificate and completing additional job preparation documents and training.

What type of career certification is offered?

Through COHS, students earn a certificate in one of the following areas: Childcare and Education, Certified Protection Officer, Office Management, Certified Transportation Services, Homeland Security, General Career Preparation/Professional Skills, Retail Customer Service Skills, and Food and Customer Service Skills.

How long does it take to complete the program?

Students are given up to 18 months to complete the program, which consists of 18 credits. Students accepted into the program may transfer up to 14 credits from their former accredited high school. Depending on how many credits a student is able to transfer, the program can be completed in as few as five months. The average time to complete the program is 12 months.

Career Online High School Graduates are not merely earning a diploma from an accredited high school, they're rediscovering themselves, improving their confidence, and learning to take responsibility for their own future. Whether graduates continue in their education or land their first full time job in a career of their choosing, they have direction and hope—many for the first time.