



REACH REPORT 2016-2017

Program Description:

REACH is a collaborative partnership between the School District of Hillsborough County Adult Education Department and St. Joseph's Hospitals. The partnership provides training and support to young adults with disabilities. REACH offers each student an opportunity to explore career options, learn self-advocacy skills and to reach their potential as an independent member of the community.

Program Objectives:

1. Collaborate with managers, supervisors, department heads and employees of St. Joseph's Hospitals and area schools to facilitate inclusion of REACH students into job sites to the greatest extent possible.
2. Offer career exploration, internship opportunities, and job training to students with disabilities.
3. Maintain a collaborative relationship with Hillsborough Area Regional Transit Authority to offer individualized travel training.
4. Develop collaborative relationships with community agencies, businesses and corporations to meet students' transitional needs.
5. Teach, support, and monitor employment, life-skills and functional academics.
6. Interview & follow-up with students who exit the program.

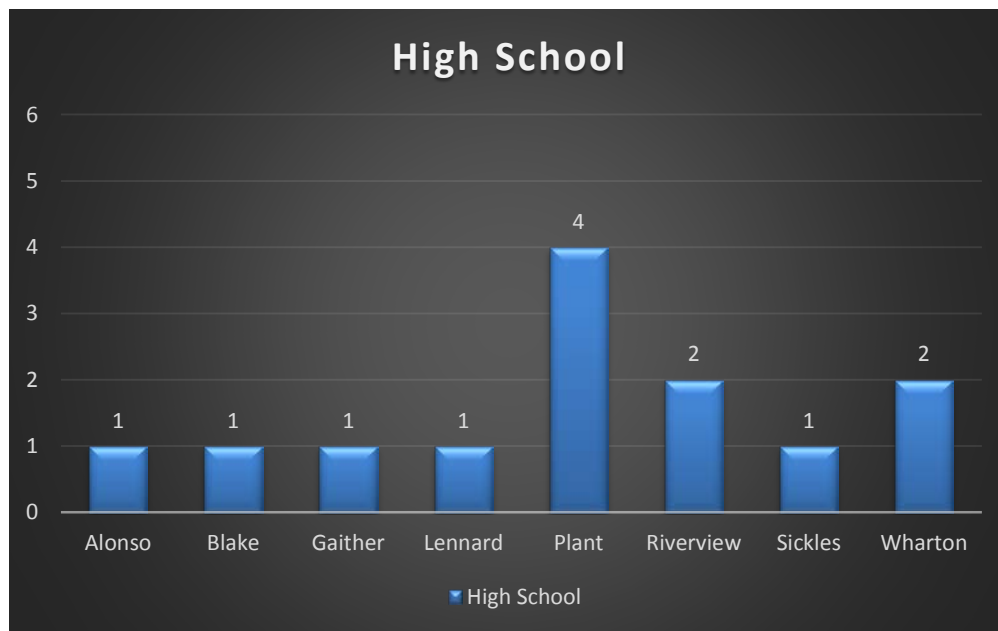
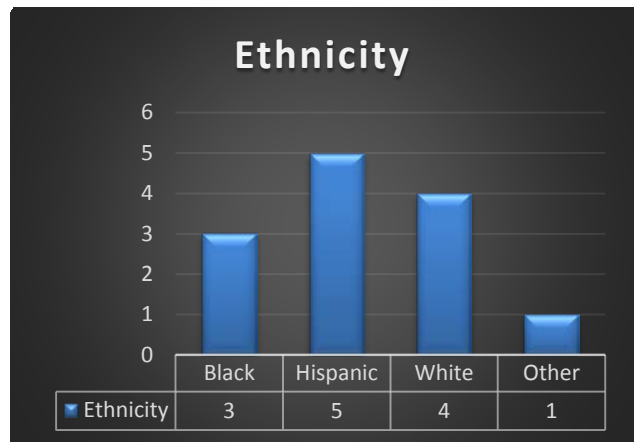
To fulfill its vision, REACH is committed to:

- Offer internships and job training
- Collaborate with department heads, managers and supervisors at St. Joseph's Hospitals and area school to facilitate maximum participation by REACH students
- Continue a collaborative relationship with HART and offer individualized travel training
- Develop collaborative relationships with agencies, businesses and corporations to meet transitional needs
- Teach, support and monitor life skills

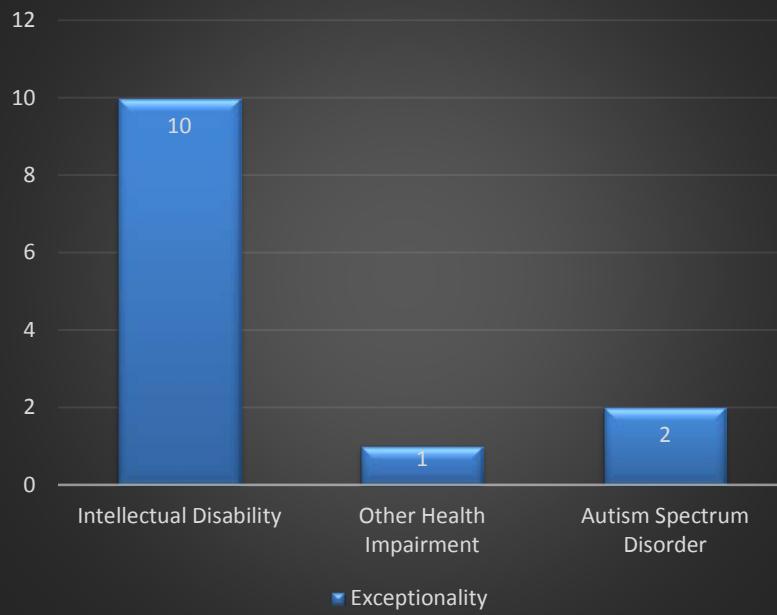
I. Total Enrollment for the 2016 - 2017 Academic Year:

The REACH program provided services for 13 students with varying exceptionalities who ranged in age from 18-22. The class of 6 males and 7 females represented a diverse group of participants who were selected from 8 different area high schools.

The 13 students who were enrolled in REACH during the 2016-2017 school year represented a mixture of students who were entering their second full year of participation, those who were just beginning as first year participants and students who entered the REACH program mid-year to replace students who left mid-year.



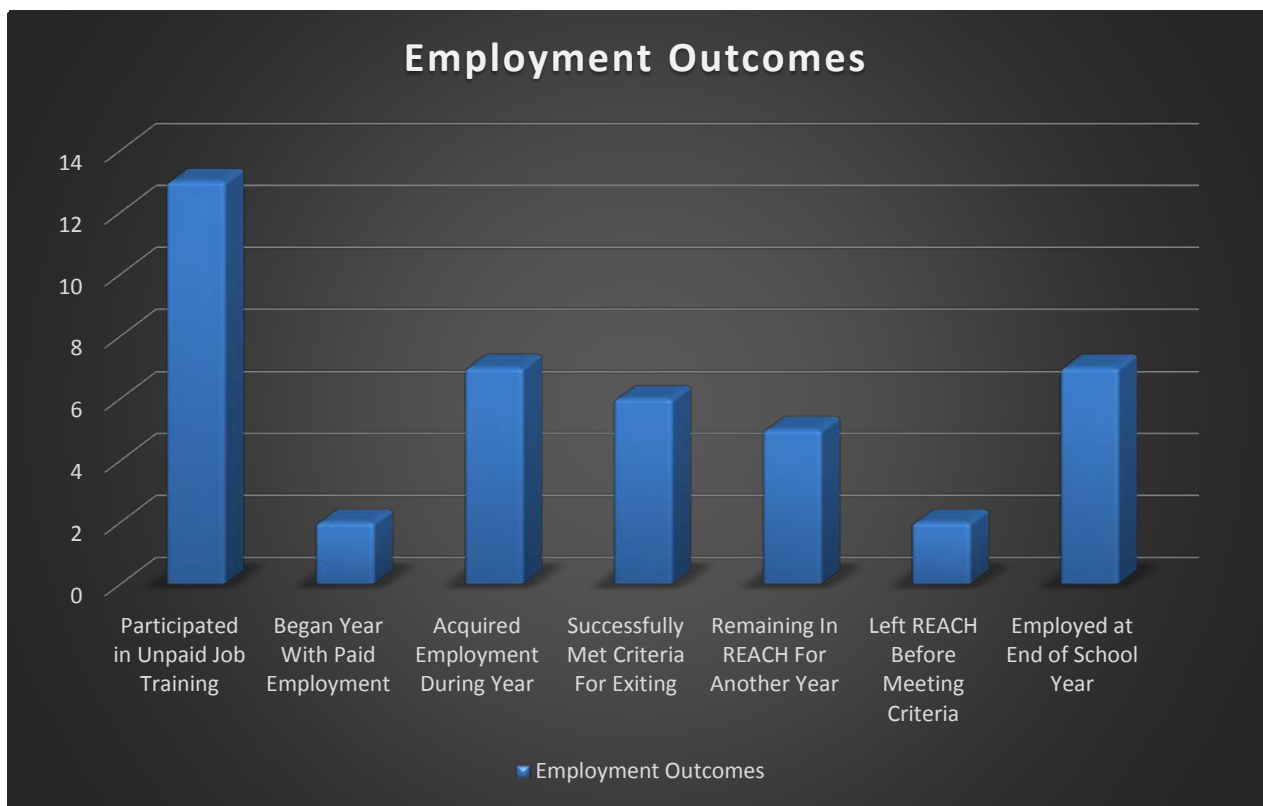
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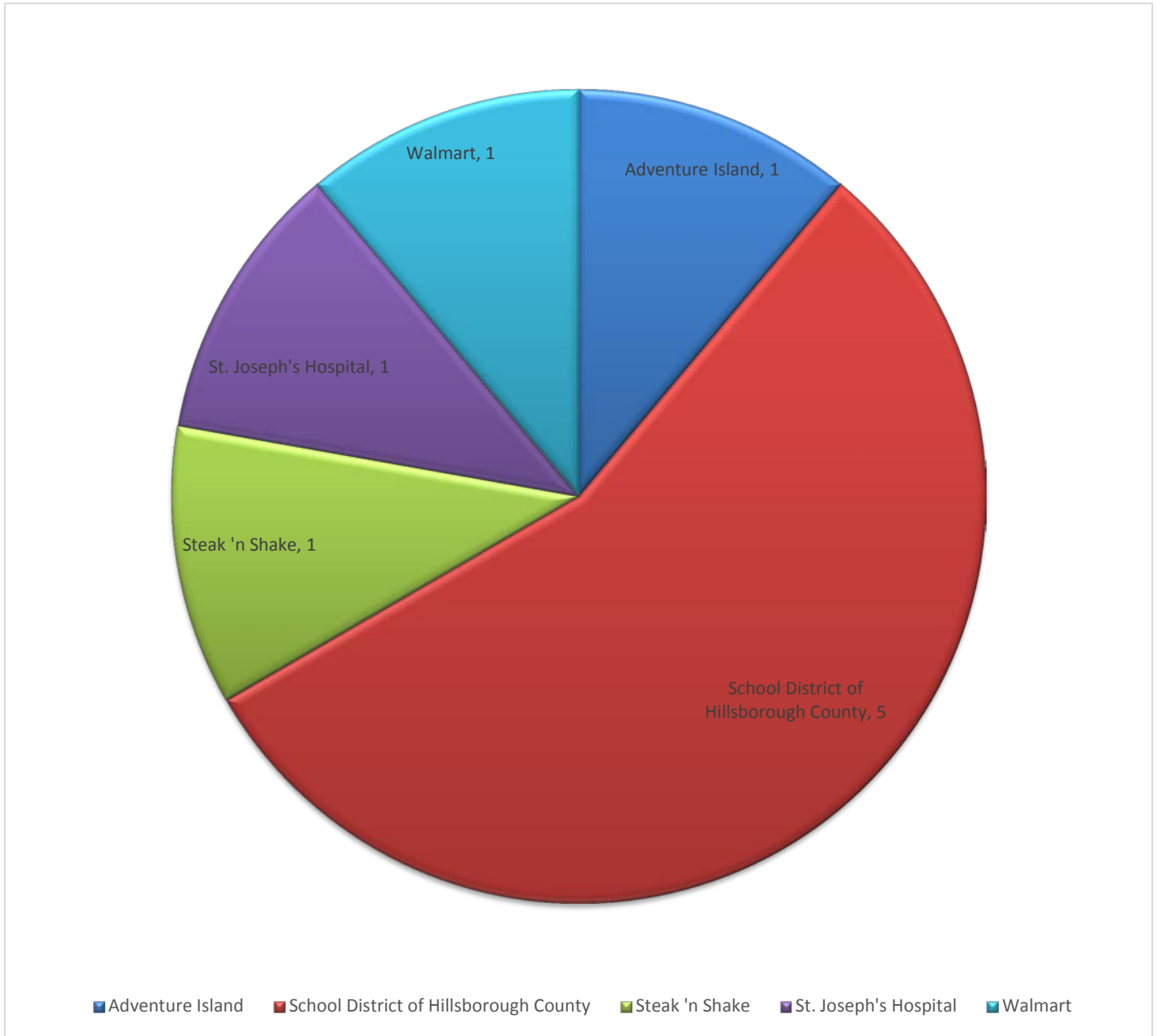
II. Job Training & Employment Outcomes:

Preparation for employment remained as one of the primary objectives of the REACH program. Students participated in a number of job training experiences throughout the year.

During the 2016-2017 school year, all 13 REACH students participated in unpaid job training, rotating to a different department approximately every 9 weeks. This enabled them to improve their employability skills as well as assist them in determining what type of career held an interest for them. Two students started the 2016-2017 school year with a paid position and 7 more REACH students acquired a paid job during the 2016-2017 school year. Of the 6 REACH students who exited the REACH program after meeting criteria, 3 students acquired paid employment. One of those students decided not to enter the work environment just yet but enroll in Brewster to get his CNA certificate. Two REACH students exited the program before meeting criteria for a successful exit.



The chart below represents the businesses where REACH students were employed for pay.



III. Transportation Training Outcomes:

The Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART) stood ready to once again assist in the training of each REACH participant. Each of the 13 participants was trained to use public transportation. All were successful in utilizing the public bus system to new destinations. It took an average of 4.5 days for the students in their first year of participation in the program to successfully master the training provided by the HART staff. Four students chose to utilize HART transportation beyond their participation in REACH. One of the students had experience accessing public transportation prior to enrolling in REACH.

