YOUTH WORK PERMIT AND CERTIFICATION OF AGE REQUIREMENTS

Youth needing a work permit should go to:
***Illinois State Board of Education (open year round)
100 W. Randolph, 14th Floor Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-814-2220
(Open Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Please call for an appointment)

During the school year, youth can contact their career counselor in their school.

Who can apply for a work permit?

WORK PERMITS are issued to a minor age 0 through 15 years.
Employment certificate cannot be issued to minors’ age 0 months through 13 years of age unless the minor will be employed as a model pursuant to Section 250.260 of the Child Labor Law.

1) THE PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN must be present when issuing a work permit to someone 15 years of age or younger. The parent/guardian’s presence at the time the application is filed is required under section 205/12, of the Child Labor Law.

2) THE MINOR CHILD must be present when issuing a work permit. The parent may not come in without the minor child to obtain a work permit.

What do you need to bring when applying for a work permit?

Youth should bring the following items when applying for a work permit:
- Letter of Intent to Hire: This is a letter from the employer who has hired the youth. It must be on business letterhead and include the contact information (address and phone number) of the employer/business. The hours and days per week the youth will work must be listed, as well as the exact nature of the occupation.
- Verification of Age (only one of the following):
  - Birth Certificate
  - Passport
  - Baptismal Certificate
  - Bible Record
- Social Security Card
- Physical, dated within one year of the date the minor is applying
- Parent approval-written note from the parent/guardian giving the child permission to work.
- A principal/counselor letter verifying that the minor is in good academic standards to work part-time (THIS FORM IS REQUIRED DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR ONLY).

ILLINOIS CHILD LABOR HOTLINE: 800.645.5784