ABSTRACT: Working as a High School Student vs. Academic Performance

During the mid 20th century, a scholar panel was given the job of concluding on a previously under-researched subject. Without sufficient evidence, it was deduced that experiencing employment while being a young adult would enhance academic achievement. The federal government implemented rules and regulations in the educational system for schools to start the application of classes like “work experience.” The flaw behind these recommendations is that there is a lack of indisputable evidence leading to this conclusion. Different studies have tried to establish a solution with consistent evidence, but the level of ambiguity to this topic has led to an unanswered question that persists through time. Although the enhancing of social interactions through work experience is evident, plenty of information has been gathered describing the detriment results for students. This research would add to the conversation and try to help answer the interrogation.

Based on this research, in the case of juniors in Honor/Regular classes, 50% of the sample population who worked did so an average of 11-15 hours a week, while the other 50% worked between 16-20 hours per week. In all cases, their GPAs stayed the same when compared to before and after being employed for about 6 months. For AP juniors, 25% worked between 11-15 hours every week, while this entire group’s academic performance stayed the same. In the range of 16-20 hours, which encompassed 25%, all of the GPA’s experienced a downfall. In the case of the students working for 21 hours or more all of the participants in this category experienced no change in their academic performance indicator. For seniors, of all working students, 15% did so 6-10 hours per week: 50% experienced a decline and 50% stayed equal in relationship to their GPA. In the range of 11-15 hours per week, all of their GPAs stayed the same. In the 16-20 hours per week range, their academic performance varied. For students in the 21 or more hours per week range 50% experienced a decline and 50% stayed equal in relationship to their GPA. In the AP senior students category, all four cases, 6-10, 11-15, 16-20, and 21+ hours per week range, students experienced no change in their GPA when the groups were compared previously and subsequently to being employed.