

## OPPORTUNITIES

# Vocational or Trade Schools

**W**ould you like to learn a new trade or skill?

**D**o you want to learn how to be a nurse, mechanic, hairdresser, or secretary? Maybe you would like to learn to be a carpenter, electrician, or welder. You can study for many different careers in a vocational or trade school.

Many vocational schools offer day classes and night classes. A program can last a few weeks, months, or a couple of years. Some programs may even offer childcare.

Many vocational programs are taught in high schools, community colleges, or at county sites. Some private vocational schools have their own buildings. Some other schools offer job training through the mail. These schools mail you the materials you need to use. Be careful though; mail order schools have fooled many people. You need to check out any school which costs a lot of money.

Vocational programs that are run with local, county, state, or federal funds may cost you very little. Private vocational schools may cost a lot. You need to ask how much a program will cost when you check it out. You should also ask if you can get any financial help. It is important to check schools carefully before paying any money.

Many private schools want you to sign a contract. Do not sign a contract unless you or someone you know has read it. Be sure you completely understand it. You need to ask about anything you don't understand.

### GET THE FACTS ON THE SCHOOL:

It is also important to find out if the school is accredited. That means the school has passed tests about its teaching abilities. Take a tour of the school if you can. You could talk to some students about the school. You should ask if the school will help you find a job when you graduate. Get all information in writing.

Also ask someone in that trade what they think of the school. Find out if there are many job openings in that field of work.

**Y**ou can get more information about schools in your area by calling your state employment office.

Or talk to a high school guidance counselor. ■

A Product of the  
Geneseo Migrant Center  
27 Lackawanna Ave.  
Mt. Morris, NY 14510

Revised with funding from the NYS  
Department of Education,  
Migrant Education.  
©2002  
All Rights Reserved

