[Working Papers | Department of Labor](https://dol.ny.gov/working-papers)

If you are aged 14-17 you will need an employment certificate, also called working papers, in order to hold a job in New York State.

This rule covers:

* High school graduates
* Minors who work for their parents
* Minors who do industrial homework

Working papers are divided into two age groups (14-15 and 16-17):

1**4-15-year-olds -** Your working papers are blue. If you are 14 and 15 years old, you are issued these working papers because you are not allowed to work in a factory.

**16-17-year-olds (in school) -** Your working papers are green. The difference between 14-15 year old working papers and 16-17 year old working papers is that you are allowed to work in a factory. You cannot work around certain machines, do construction work, help on a motor vehicle, clean, oil, wipe, or adjust belts on machinery.

**16-17-year-olds (out of school) -**Your working papers are peach. If you are 16 to 17 years old and are not in school or are leaving school for full time employment, you will need these working papers. You are allowed to work in a factory, cannot work around certain machines, do construction work, help on a motor vehicle, or clean, oil, wipe, or adjust belts on machinery.

**Types of Working Papers**

**Student Non-Factory Employment Certificate - AT-18 (Blue Paper)**

* Issued to youth ages 14 and 15 who plan to work at permitted occupations during vacations or after school hours
* Not valid for work:
  + In factory workrooms or construction
  + Involving use of prohibited machinery or chemical processes
  + As a helper on a motor vehicle
  + Cleaning, oiling, wiping or adjusting belts to machinery

**Student General Employment Certificate - AT-19 (Green Paper)**

* Issued to youth ages 16 and 17 who attend school and plan to work during vacations or after school hours
* Valid for work in a factory and other trade, business or service
* Not valid for hazardous employment such as:
  + Operating certain machines
  + Doing construction work
  + Helping on a motor vehicle
  + Cleaning, oiling, wiping or adjusting belts to machinery