

How to Apply for a Work Permit in Michigan

Starting October 2, 2026, Michigan will no longer issue work permits through schools — instead, you must apply online via the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity's (LEO) Youth Employment Permit Portal (YEPP)

Key Changes

- Schools will stop issuing permits — all permits will be processed through the new state portal
- Both the minor and the employer must register on the YEPP website
- No paper forms will be accepted for new permits after this date
- The portal will be free and statewide, with a public database of approved employers

How to Apply (After Oct. 2, 2026)

1. **Check eligibility**
 - You must be under 18 and have a job offer from an employer registered with LEO
2. **Access the Youth Employment Permit Portal**
 - Go to the official LEO site: Michigan.gov/YouthEmployment.
3. **Create an account**
 - Minors (or parents/guardians) will create a user profile; employers will also register separately
4. **Complete the online application**
 - Provide personal information, job details, and employer information.
 - The system will verify hours, job restrictions, and other legal requirements
5. **Submit and receive confirmation**
 - Once approved, the permit will be stored in the portal and accessible to both you and the employer.

Work Hour Rules for Minors

- **Ages 14–15:**
 - June 1–Labor Day: 7 a.m.–9 p.m.
 - Rest of year: 7 a.m.–7 p.m.
 - School year: max 3 hrs/day, 18 hrs/week.
 - No school: up to 40 hrs/week.
- **Ages 16–17:** Wider hours, but still limited; certain jobs prohibited.
- **Prohibited jobs:** Hazardous work (power tools, heavy machinery, meat slicers, hazardous chemicals, roofing, excavation, etc.)

Tips for a Smooth Transition

- **Apply early** — the portal is not yet live; check LEO's site for the launch date and instructions
- **Ensure your employer is registered** — unregistered employers cannot hire minors
- **Keep your permit current** — a new permit is required for each job change
- **Follow legal hour limits** — violations can result in penalties for both student and employer

Official resources:

- LEO Youth Employment Portal: Michigan.gov/YouthEmployment
- Work permit forms (for pre-Oct. 2026): CA-6 (under 16) and CA-7 (16–17)
- This change is designed to simplify the process and centralize oversight, so after October 2, 2026, you will apply entirely online through the state's YEPP system.