

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Federal legislation deemed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) to be passed and it amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. With the new changes, each state is required, through their respective offices of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies, to set aside federal funds for the provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to "students with disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services." VR is a state agency that is housed in the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). Their mission is to assist individuals with serious impediments to become employed. Through this initiative to pass this legislation it was determined that a portion of the population was well underserved. One national study indicated students leaving high school who had a real work experience doubled their chance of being employed as an adult. This is a great opportunity to ensure students have access to meaningful career planning in order to help with the seamless movement from high school to employment or post-secondary training.

Who is eligible for this program?

A student with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who:

- *Is between the ages of 14-22 years old*
- *Is eligible for and receiving, special education or related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IEP, 504 plan)*

What are Pre-Employment Transition Services?

The five core services of Pre-ETS are listed, along with examples of those services (pre-ETS is not limited to the examples listed):

- 1 Job exploration counseling
 - Discussion of students' vocational interests
 - Review of local labor market and in-demand industries and occupations
 - Non-traditional employment options
 - Identification of career pathways of interest to the students
- 2 Work-based learning experiences
 - Apprenticeships and job shadowing
 - Paid and non-paid internships and/or work experiences
 - Informational interviews
 - Volunteering
- 3 Counseling on postsecondary opportunities
 - Gaining awareness of career pathways
 - Promoting participation in postsecondary education
 - Attending college fairs and tours
 - Accessing services and supports from agencies that assist peoples with disabilities
- 4 Workplace readiness training
 - Receive training on communication, problem solving, and other specific social and interpersonal skills as well as independent living skills.
- 5 Instruction in self—advocacy
 - Training on self-awareness, disclosure of disability, and knowing individual rights and responsibilities.