Department of Rehabilitation Services TRANSITION Program

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Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for students with disabilities, which are designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities and is based upon the individual student’s needs, preferences and interests.
TRANSITION SERVICES - The term `transition services' means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that--

(A) is designed to be a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;

(B) is based on the individual child’s needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests . . .
Who Does this Include?

- The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** mandates transition services by the 9th grade or upon turning 16, whichever comes first, for students receiving special education services and on an individualized education program (IEP) through their school.
  - Referral is not an application
Who Else Does DRS Serve?

- For transition purposes:
  - Students on a Section 504 plan.
  - Any student that can document a disability (e.g., scoliosis, sickle cell, diabetes, hearing aid) according to eligibility purposes.
What is a Transition Client?

- A student 22 or under who is still completing requirements for high school completion.
- Public, private, and charter schools
- Homeschooled
- Not a dropout not completing high school
Rationale

Research has identified 20 in-school predictors of post-school success that help students with disabilities achieve better employment outcomes. Some of those predictors are:

- Career Awareness
- Community Experiences
- Interagency Collaboration
- Paid/unpaid work experiences
- Self-Determination/Self-Advocacy
- Social Skills
- Work Study
The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Requirements

In 2014 WIOA became law and emphasized the preparation of and services to youth and students with disabilities. Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) were introduced.

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences, including internships
- Workplace readiness training, including social and independent living skills
- Counseling on postsecondary opportunities
- Instruction in self-advocacy, including peer mentoring
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

The National Center for Disability Education and Training, University Oklahoma Outreach, through a grant from the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, is making available Pre-Employment Transition Service (Pre-ETS) activities to high school students with disabilities. The activities described below are introductory services and are intended to help students with disabilities get an early start in identifying career interests to achieve community integration, independence, post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment.
Pre-ETS are the career focused preparation activities outlined below:

- **Job Exploration**: Exploring the world of work and career options; skills-assessments and interest inventories, labor market and in-demand occupation information
- **Work-Based Learning**: Explore appropriate workplace behaviors, participate in work-site tours and job shadowing experiences
- **Workplace Readiness**: Preparing students for the workplace; soft skills training, peer mentoring, independent living skills, and accessing transportation
- **Self-Advocacy**: Helping the student learn more about themselves, their disabilities, and how to present themselves responsibly; recognize their strengths and how to advocate for their needs and develop strategies for goal setting, time management and problem solving
- **Post-Secondary Counseling**: Exploring options for students seeking careers that require post-secondary education
Pre-ETS Coordinator:

- Pre-ETS activities are designed to supplement and enhance, not replace, a local education agency’s transition program.
- Pre-ETS are primarily designed to assist students with disabilities however a student is not required to have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, a documented disability or have been determined eligible or ineligible for VR services to participate in Pre-ETS activities.
- There is no cost for Pre-ETS to individual’s receiving the services, their families or the school.
- A legal guardian’s written consent is required to provide Pre-ETS.
- Participation in Pre-ETS does not qualify an individual for VR services. If a student is interested in VR services, please contact your local VR counselor.
- A student may receive any one or any combination of Pre-ETS tailored to their educational needs and the goal of competitive integrated employment.
- Pre-ETS activities can be provided individually or in a group setting.
Who can participate? One or more Pre-Employment Transition Service activities can be provided to students with disabilities who have been determined eligible or are potentially eligible for DRS services and who have identified need for Pre-Employment Transition Services.

When and where do Pre-ETS take place? The University of Oklahoma transition specialist works in collaboration with school personnel and other community partners to provide Pre-Employment Transition Service activities. These activities may be provided individually or in groups. They may take place during or after school hours, depending on the activity, duration, availability of student and coordination with partners.

How do I request Pre-ETS? Student with a disability, who are potentially eligible or already eligible for DRS services, must complete a “Request for Pre-Employment Transition Services Authorization” form. The form must be signed by his/her parent or legal guardian and school staff. Schools should contact Judi Goldston.
Benefits to the High School Student

- Identification of student career interests and needs
- Awareness of the variety of options and the role of post-secondary education and training
- Development of plan with outcome-oriented goals and activities
- Awareness of the variety of careers available and the variety of jobs within career fields
- Broaden perspective of personal skills to utilize, reinforce and develop for work
- Increased communication with family about student’s progress and needs
- Broaden self-awareness, including how to request accommodations or services and supports

**We currently have served 183 students that are potentially eligible for DRS services since February 2019. The plan is to expand over the year state wide**
- Those students in the past that wanted to go to sheltered workshops-subminimum wage, were able to go straight to sheltered workshop. However, with law change, requires that workers with disabilities who are age 24 or younger (youth) complete various requirements designed to improve their access to competitive integrated employment, including transition services, vocational rehabilitation, and career counseling services, before they are employed at sub minimum wage. Thus, must apply through DRS services prior to going to workshops. (US Dept of Labor)

- Credential Attainment and Measurable Skills gained proof required. Counselors requesting from schools.
Services Available

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Vocational assessment
- Variations of work experiences (e.g., school work study (SWS), worksite learning, employer work study, On the Job Training (OJT))
- Work Adjustment Training
- Tech-Now
- Project SEARCH
Implementation

WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL/Special Programs and Events

- Oklahoma Transition Institute (OTI)
- Career Exploration Contract – Bristow, Cushing, Sapulpa are doing it now.
- Summer Experiences
  - Summer Transition Employment Program (STEP)
  - Camp WOW!
  - Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Camp
There are three types of Work Study:

1. *School Work Study* allows students with disabilities to work on the school campus.

2. *Work Site Learning* allows students with disabilities to work in the community.

3. *Employer Work Study* allows students with disabilities employment experience in part-time jobs in the community with the employers paying the wages/salary(ies).
DRS job seekers preauthorized to participate in Work Study may do so for up to 24 total months, as approved on an individual basis by the DRS counselor. The months do not need to be consecutive.

Up to 15 hours a week. 15-20 hours in Summer. Summer months spent in Work Study count in the total 24 months.

The final 9 months of their Work Study must be outside the school/district and in the community (unless approved by the DRS counselor in special circumstances).
Contact your local DRS counselor and/or Brandi Hurley/Renee Sansom. DRS will need below information to start the process.

1. Name of School District
2. The address where the school will want to receive their reimbursement checks.
3. The name of the school contact person who will handle the contract.
4. The email address and telephone number of the contact person.
**Transition School-to-Work: Work Study Contract**

- Contract will be emailed to and the contact person that is provided.
- The school will electronically sign both the contract and vendor form.
- The contracts will be processed and a final copy will be emailed back to the school and the lead counselor (along with the Work Plan).
- Also, if there are **any changes** to the school’s contact person or contact information, it is important to inform your DRS counselor.
Work Adjustment Training WAT

- Designed to prepare high school age youth with the most significant disabilities and barriers for employment in the community by developing important work habits, attitudes and personal and social adjustment skills.
- Students may participate in WAT up to 18 total months, as approved by the DRS Counselor.
- The team must meet to determine when the student can transition out of WAT and into a less restrictive employment experience. Goal is to build skills to be able to start paid work experience.
- Contact Brandi Hurley if interested. bhurley@okdrs.gov
Career Exploration

- This program is in various rural area schools currently feeding into the Central Technology Center in Sapulpa. Right now, we have one in Drumright, Bristow, Cushing, Sapulpa, Kellyville and Oilton.
- An instructor is there to teach employability skills training (based on Skills to Pay the Bills curriculum and DRS Job Club curriculum) to eight to ten participants (who fall in the category 2 – 3 of disability for DRS) in up to seven one hour classes held weekly throughout the current school year.
- The program tracks progress for each participant in the career exploration elective course pilot program. This information is then reported to all of the Parties to assist with data driven decisions for future courses.
- The program will provide recommendations to Central Technology Center counselors for potential placement of participants in full time programs at Center Technology Center.
- Helps develop community partners and guest speakers.
- Helps develop an advisory board and conduct annual advisory board meetings.
- Sapulpa has the Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab and they utilize that, however, that is a very expensive talent assessment tool that not all schools can afford.
DRS provides a paid work experience program for its high school transition clients in a few areas of the state including: Moore/Norman, Edmond and Owasso/Collinsville. We are looking to expand to OKC and Lawton next year.

STEP consists of a week of in-house training for the youth on employability and independent living skills, such as how to apply for a job, interview, perform the job, work as a team, budget, use public transportation, and comparison shopping, followed then by students working part-time on jobs in their home communities for the duration of the summer.

Throughout the summer, the programs staff meets with the students each week to debrief, provide additional instruction, develop resumes and resignation letters, and bring in topical speakers.

We welcome any school that is interested in such an activity and would love to get connected with you!
STEP Participants
Young jobseekers who apparently enjoy hard work and tent camping come out for paid work experiences/employment at summer camp at Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge in Indiahoma.

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services offers the innovative on-the-job training in the summer for Vocational Rehabilitation and Visual Services clients in the DRS Transition School to Work program.

Students selected for the Working on the Wichita Mountains or WOW camp are paid to work at the wildlife refuge where they camp out, cook some of their meals and make new friends. Meanwhile, they are developing work skills and job experience that will look great on their resumes.

Adult staff, partners and volunteers pitch in to get the work done in time for hiking, campfires, swimming and other fun activities.

Transition students mix work and fun at the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services WOW Camp.
Working on the Wichitas (WOW!)
Working on the Wichitas (WOW!)
Hard at work.....
STEM Camps

- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
  - Partner with Tech-Now, Inc. and local schools or other organizations
  - Available to 14-18 year old students with disabilities
  - 3-day camp free to participants
  - Number of sites and locations vary by year
  - Skills:
    - Use Windows based computers to build and race multiple HT Gravity Racers
    - Use digital cameras
    - Design a t-shirt and mouse pad
    - Design buttons and necklaces
STEM Camp

Hard at work.....
Office of Juvenile Affairs (OJA)

- Partnership between Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth (OCCY), OJA, and DRS at
  - Central Oklahoma Juvenile Center (COJC) along with Gordon Cooper Technology Center (GCTC)
  - Southwest Oklahoma Juvenile Center (SWOJJC) along with Great Plains Technology Center
  - Road to Independence (RTI) with DHS
Tech-Now

- Elective class for students with disabilities (in about 22 classrooms)
- Students earn school credit during a technology class where they:
  - Develop work/entrepreneurial skills;
  - Enhance and build computer skills and teamwork skills; and
  - Create projects that may be entered into annual competition for cash, scholarships, software, trophies, and other prizes.
Tech-Now

- Meets OK Promise technology elective requirement; has also been set up as a fine art in some districts.
- Form relationships with Tech-Now instructors.
- Be proactive in trying to get applications.
- Counselors will receive evaluations and work samples.
- Annual competition in May
- Contract is on iDRS, Support Services, MSD-Central Departmental Services, Contracts
Unpaid internship program for high school students or young adults in CareerTech

DRS, school, host business, provider

Intended for those with significant to most significant disabilities

3 rotations of up to 10 weeks each in a host business

Competitive integrated employment at the end is the ultimate goal

Contract with OU for state coordinator support
Project SEARCH

- 7 sites – Possible new one in Muskogee next year for OSB specific to working with blind or VI students.
  - 4 high school
    - Enid Public Schools at INTEGRIS Bass Baptist
    - Norman Public Schools at Embassy Suites
    - Moore Public Schools at Norman Healthplex
    - Oklahoma City Public at SW Medical
  - 4 young adult
    - Francis Tuttle at Mercy
    - Francis Tuttle at INTEGRIS Baptist Medical Center
    - Canadian Valley Tech at INTEGRIS Yukon
    - Metro-Tech YMCA Downtown.
- Annual OK Project SEARCH Net Event/Summit
Project SEARCH
Project SEARCH
What else can DRS do?

- Attendance at IEP meetings - build relationship with DRS counselor.
- Presentations to parents and other groups
- Booths at fairs (i.e., job, career, transition)
- We take applications and form relationships.
  - Referral is not an application.
DRS services after HS

- Vocational guidance and counseling
- Vocational assessment
- Supported employment
- Job placement
- Training
- Assistive Technology
WHAT CHANGE CAN I MAKE TO INCREASE STUDENT SUCCESS?

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