

Pre-Employment Transition Services under WIOA

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DISABILITY RIGHTS DC AT UNIVERSITY LEGAL SERVICES

Workforce Innovation & Opportunities Act

Quote from Senator Tom Harkin

“The days of students with disabilities leaving school poorly educated, with no employment experience and no job prospects, living in poverty and too often ending up in segregated day programs and subminimum wages, needs to come to an end. “

What is required under WIOA?

Comprehensive state plan – enhanced coordination, collaboration, and strategic planning between RSA and LEAs.

Competitive integrated employment

Supplements IEP Transition Services

15% of VR funds used on Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Not to include administrative costs

What are Pre-Employment Transition Services?

Required activities under 34 CFR §361.48(a)(2):

Job exploration counseling

Work-based learning experiences in integrated settings, in and out of school

Counseling on post-secondary opportunities

- Comprehensive transition programs (Think College?)
- Programs at institutions of higher education

Workplace Readiness Training

- Social skills
- Independent living skills

Self-Advocacy Training/Skills

- Person-centered planning; peer mentoring

What are Pre-Employment Transition Services? (Con't)

A subset of RSA services

- Not necessary to apply to RSA
- Application to RSA necessary for the full set of RSA services

Who is eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services?

Enrolled in School

- traditional schools, charter schools, homeschoolers, postsecondary students

Ages 16-21

- Unless jurisdiction designates different age for transition

Student with a disability

- Receiving services under IDEA or Section 504

What Should RSA be Doing?

Attend IEP meetings, if invited

Working with Schools (Collaboration):

- Help with coordinating transition services
- Every HS should have a VR counselor assigned

Collaborate with Employers:

- Working one-stop sites, independent living centers, identify internships and employment opportunities.

Person-Centered Meetings, when invited

- For persons receiving social security benefits.

Collaboration

RSA must collaborate with educational agencies

Must have a point of contact for each HS

Provide consultation and technical assistance to schools

Important Points

WIOA does not diminish the school's role to provide transition services under the IDEA.

Student does not have to apply to RSA in order to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services

Students should begin receiving Pre-ETS prior to graduation.

Your Students Have Rights

Students with disabilities have different rights than other recipients of RSA services.

Students with disabilities who are eligible, or potentially eligible for other RSA services (not Pre-ETS), do not have to apply and have an IPE before they can receive Pre-ETS.

Must submit proof of disability with referral. An IEP or 504 plan alone is not sufficient.

Your Students Have Rights (Con't)

Upon receipt of a written denial or decision letter, students can appeal:

1. Administrative Review
2. Due Process Hearing (with mediation occurring before the hearing begins).

What Can I Do?

Identify your students in need of pre-employment transition services

Identify the RSA contact for your school

Ask if the RSA contact has been invited to the IEP meeting for your students

Refer them to DRDC CAP if they have questions or are not getting the services they need.

Questions?

Contact Information

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