

Pre-Employment Transition Services

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and requires 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." 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.

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 people 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

Who is a "Student with a Disability"?

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

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

Currently, there are 9 pre-ETS contractors, who are collaborating with other providers, to deliver pre-employment transition services in approximately 50 counties statewide (though not yet to every school in these counties). Please contact the following individuals to determine if pre-ETS is available in your school:

GAP-LOC Coalition (Opportunity Enterprises): Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Elkhart, Allen, St. Joseph, & Huntington counties.

Contact: Kathleen Savich, Kathie.Savich@oppent.org

Sycamore Services: Dubois, Gibson, Perry, Pike, Posey, Spencer, Vanderburgh, Warrick, & Vigo counties.

Contact: Pattie Sebanc, PSSEBANC@sycamoreservices.com

New Horizons: Dearborn & Ripley counties.

Contact: Marie Dausch, mdausch@nhrinc.org

PEAK: Pulaski, Fulton, Cass, Starke, Grant, Carroll, Marshall, Kosciusko, White, & Miami counties.

Contact: Sandi Gibson sgibson@peakcommunity.com

Aspire: Madison & Delaware counties.

Contact: Tina Skeel, tina.skeel@aspireindiana.org

Bona Vista: Howard, Grant, Tipton, Miami, & Wabash counties.

Contact: Meredith Freeman, mrfreeman@bonavista.org

Stone Belt: Monroe, Owen, Browne, Lawrence, Bartholomew Knox, Decatur, Martin, Daviess, Green, Sullivan, Jennings, & Jackson counties.

Contact: Bitta DeWees, bdewees@stonebelt.org

Easter Seals Crossroads: Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan, Shelby, & Rush counties.

Contact: Bruce Schnaith, bschnaith@eastersealscrossroads.org

ARC of Northeastern Indiana: Allen & Lagrange counties.

Contact: Thomas Summerville, tsummerville@esarc.org

For further information, please contact either Will Colteryahn at (317) 232-1966 or william.colteryahn@fssa.in.gov or Jonathan Kraeszig at (317) 232-1964 or jonathan.kraeszig@fssa.in.gov.