




**VR & LEA
Collaboration**

Working together to meet the transition
needs of Students with Disabilities

Brandi Boyer Rutherford, M.S. &
Johana Valdivieso, M.Ed, CRC
VR Senior Consultant,
Program Administrators





Objectives

- Learn the purpose and components of Local Education Agency (LEA) agreement
- Identify types of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Outline partner’s responsibilities delivering Pre-ETS
- Share effective strategies to collaborate

*Why...
It is all about the
Students!*




Purpose of Local Education Agency (LEA) Agreement

- Provide guidance to develop plans, to identify and serve students
- Define partner responsibilities
- Outline ways to collaborate
- Promote outreach efforts
- Avoid duplication of services
- Provide support and consultation

LEA Agreement Components

- Transition planning and coordination
- Outreach
- Enhance or extend IDEA transition services
- Technical assistance & support
- Grievance procedures and conflict resolution
- Requirements for Students with Disabilities interested in Adult Day Training Centers upon exiting high school

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Postsecondary Education Counseling
- Work Readiness Training
- Work Based Learning Experience (WBLE)
- Self-Advocacy & Youth Peer Mentoring

Partner Responsibilities

Vocational Rehabilitation:

- Provide Pre-ETS not covered under IDEA to **Students with Disabilities (SWD)** eligible or potential eligible for VR services
- Participate in school events (open house, orientations, IEP, interagency meetings etc.)
- Provide training and support

Local Education Agency:

- Refer SWDs to VR for Pre-ETS services
- Provide transition services under IDEA
- Refer SWDs interested in subminimum wage (ADT) to VR before exiting high school

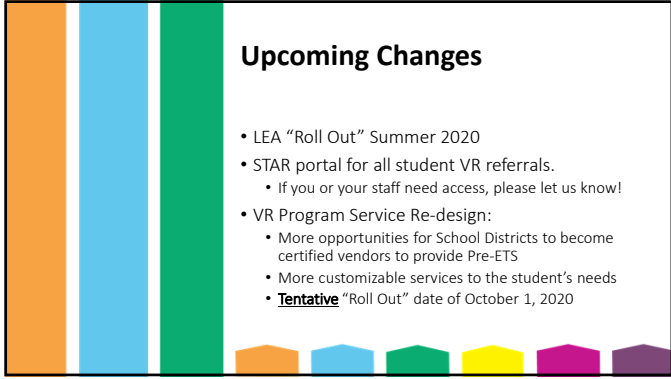
Strategies to collaborate...

- Maintain constant communication with local staff. This includes sharing contact information of both partners
- Evaluating and mapping what every school is already doing to identify gaps that VR can fill
- Schedule meetings throughout the year to discuss progress in collaboration
- Staff mutual students with signed and dated releases of information
- VR and LEA cross-training

What Happens Next?

Local VR staff will be reaching out to local school districts as early as summer 2020 to continue or start planning collaborative activities for the 2020-2021 school year!





Upcoming Changes

- LEA "Roll Out" Summer 2020
- STAR portal for all student VR referrals.
 - If you or your staff need access, please let us know!
- VR Program Service Re-design:
 - More opportunities for School Districts to become certified vendors to provide Pre-ETS
 - More customizable services to the student's needs
 - **Tentative** "Roll Out" date of October 1, 2020



Any Questions



Contact Us

Brandi Boyer Rutherford
Brandi.BoyerRutherford@vr.fldoe.org
 (850)872-4383

Johana Valdivieso
Johana.Valdivieso@vr.fldoe.org
 (863) 837-1971
