

PROJECT 10 TOPICAL BRIEFS are published on a bi-monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme, highlighting current and upcoming information and events related to secondary transition. This month the Topical Brief is focused on **Labor Market**.

*Use the green button below to share this Topical Brief with someone who would benefit from this edition.*

 [Send to a Colleague](#)



## Stories

- [Labor Market Knowledge and Transition Planning](#)
- [Two Tools to Use: Interactive Labor Market Resources](#)
- [State Agencies Provide Employment and Labor Market Expertise](#)
- [Job-a-Palooza! It's That Time Again!](#)

## • IN THIS ISSUE

## [Resources](#)

## [Upcoming Events](#)

## [Upcoming Webinars](#)

## [New Opportunities](#)

Staying current with knowledge about state and regional developments in the labor market is critical as educators prepare students to be ready for postsecondary education, careers and life. Transition planning includes measurable postsecondary employment and career goals because finding meaningful, competitive employment is a cornerstone that supports all post-school life activities. Employment gives students with disabilities, and all students, the opportunity to do the following:

- Work at a job that provides self-supporting wages,
- Live independent adult lives, and
- Take pride in their ability to assume an important role in the economy.

Because the role of employment is essential in all of our lives, educational opportunities are designed to be diverse, well-rounded and structured to ensure that students with disabilities are prepared to successfully pursue careers and employment. Familiarity with labor market information helps to ensure that students' employment goals reflect available employment opportunities as well as their personal areas of interest. Prospects of finding employment are increased when job-seeking includes a combination of high opportunity and student preferences. In this Topical Brief, we will look at Florida's most current data on statewide and regional labor markets.



## Two Tools to Use: Interactive Labor Market Resources

The Department of Economic Opportunity provides two useful tools that will assist you to understand the trends in Florida's Labor Market. The Regional Demands Occupations List and the Florida Skills Gap and Job Vacancies tools show statewide and regional data about the annual demand for specific jobs, information about the jobs that are high-skills/high-wages and other valuable labor market information.

### Regional Demands Occupations List

Find the 2019-20 All Workforce Regions Excel file and download it to your computer. This file has multiple sheets that provide labor market information, such as the following:

- High skill/high wage occupations,
- Annual number of openings by occupation,

- Annual percent of job growth by occupation, and
- Entry-level hourly wage and average hourly wage.

This information is provided through a statewide lens, and, perhaps more importantly, by regional areas. Look through the sheet tabs at the bottom of the Excel file to find your county.

## Regional Demand Occupations List

Home > Workforce Statistics > Publications and Reports > Workforce Statistics Reports > Regional Demand Occupations List

Workforce Statistics Data Releases

About Workforce Statistics

### 2019-2020 Regional Demand Occupation Lists

FileName	File Description
All Workforce Regions	Regional demand occupation lists for all workforce regions and statewide.

### Florida Skills Gap and Job Vacancies

This completely online resource has multiple menus that provide the following information:

- Number of job vacancies by top industry and major occupational groups,
- Amount of experience and education needed for occupation openings,
- Skills gaps that exist in occupations by area, and
- Much more!

This information can be filtered with one click to show statewide data or data by your region. Reviewing the skills gaps for your area could help you identify skills to assist your students with developing skills employers are looking for in new hires.

<
Summary
Top Industry and Major Occupational Group Job Vacancies
Top Occupations, Vacancy Status, and Length of Vacancy
Top Occupations, Experience, and Education
Skills Gap Concentration by Local Area
Gap Mitigation
>

**SELECT AN AREA** ?

Statewide

Job vacancies were collected by industry and major occupational group. Industries are assigned to an employer based on the activities in which they are primarily engaged. Major Occupational Groups are occupations that are grouped together based on similar job duties.

Job Vacancy by Industry Super Sector

Education and Health Services	60,843
Leisure and Hospitality	51,772

Job Vacancy by Major Occupational Group

Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	39,302
Sales and Related Occupations	35,394

## State Agencies Provide Employment and Labor Market Expertise

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), CareerSource and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) are available on a statewide level to support individuals with disabilities to find employment.

### Vocational Rehabilitation



**Vocational Rehabilitation**



VR describes its services for youth as follows, "VR Transition Youth Services help students with disabilities train for a job, continue their education or find a job after high school. Under this program, every youth will have the opportunity to participate in sponsored career counseling, work readiness training and fully integrated work experiences in the community." Through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) are offered to students with disabilities without requiring them to apply for traditional VR services. VR provides specific Pre-ETS, including:

- Career Exploration Counseling
- Work Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Training
- Postsecondary Educational Counseling
- Community-Based Work Experiences

Pre-ETS are helping thousands of students across the state. Some recent statistics show the following:

- Since August 1, 2019, 3,256 students have received services
- Since the implementation of Pre-ETS, 14,534 students have received services

#### CareerSource Florida (CareerSource)

CareerSource is the statewide workforce policy and investment board. As such, CareerSource serves both employers and employment seekers. CareerSource describes their work as follows,

"The federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) guides states in achieving and maintaining an integrated, outcome-oriented public workforce system that links diverse talent to businesses. This is accomplished through customer-driven workforce solutions and excellent customer service that support strong regional economies."

#### Agency for Persons with Disabilities

Funds have been provided for the past for years to the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) to provide supported employment services to individuals on the APD Waiting List. The Employment Enhancement Program (EEP) helps individuals to find and maintain competitive employment or participate in an internship that provides a valuable work-based learning experience that often leads to competitive employment. In 2019-20, \$900,000 has been appropriated by the Legislature and Governor that allows the EEP to provide the following:

- Supported employment coaching to secure a good job match,
- Supported employment follow-along services to help retain the job,
- Assistance with transportation needed for work and securing paid internships as pathways to competitive employment.

# Job-a-Palooza! It's That Time Again!

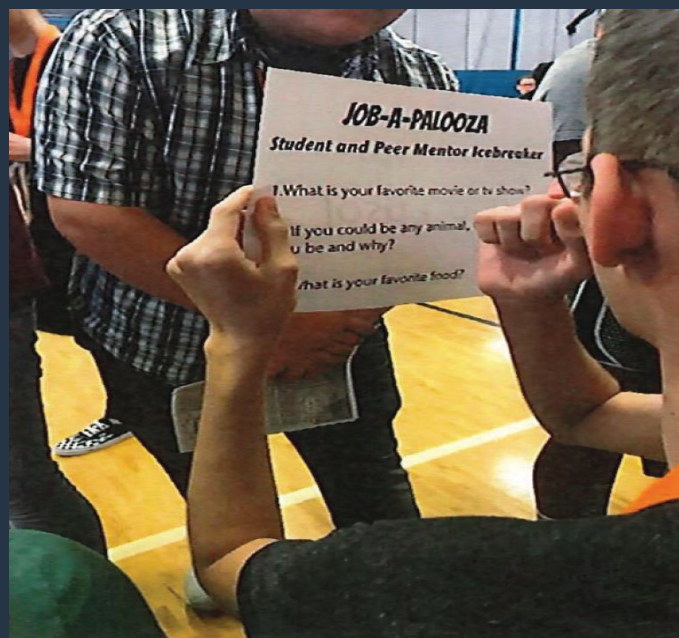
Job-a-Palooza? Wow-za-Palooza!  
Job-a-Paloozas are Job Skills Fairs that are sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation and hosted across the state through ARC of Florida during December through March. A minimum of 10 employers will be represented and students will experiment with a job task that a potential employee would need to complete. Student participants will rotate through all of the employer workstations engaging in friendly competition with others to complete the job tasks. Job task examples include the following:

- Food industry: Roll silverware, clean and sort menus, run food, bus tables
- Office environment: Shred paper, stuff envelopes, assemble mailing packets
- Grocery Store: Sorting cans, shelving, bagging groceries



Students will also be provided similar-age mentors to assist students to navigate the workstations and tasks, if needed. Mentors and guests cheer on participants as they engage in the tasks. Judges will give out awards.

Job-a-Palooza provides students and young adults with disabilities the opportunity to learn about the skills needed for a variety of jobs while demonstrating their abilities to learn and perform job tasks. Students also build a network of employer contacts for future job opportunities. Check with your local [ARC chapter](#) to find out when a Job-a-Palooza is scheduled in your area.



## Resources

### [Agency for Persons with Disabilities - Employment Enhancement Program \(EEP\)](#)

This website provides information about the EEP as well as other employment initiatives.

### [CareerSource Florida - Find Your Local Career Center](#)

This page on the CareerSource website provides a location feature that enables the user to look for the CareerSource Center located closest to them.

### [Department of Economic Opportunity \(DEO\)'s Regional Demands Occupational Lists](#)

This DEO webpage features the Regional Demand Occupational Lists for all workforce regions and statewide.

### [DEO's Florida Skills Gap and Job Vacancies](#)

This DEO resource features job vacancies collected by industry and major occupational group. The interactive lists feature valuable information to individuals searching for employment or those who assist employment seekers to find work

### [Vocational Rehabilitation - Transition Youth](#)

This webpage provides information about the programs VR provides to transition-age youth.

### [Youth Employment Skills Parent Checklist](#)

This resource can be used as a guide for families to assist their students to develop the skills needed to find and maintain employment.

## Upcoming Events

### Project 10: Transition Education Network Regional Winter Institutes

Join us for the 2020 Regional Winter Institutes. Hear the latest transition updates and reports on transition progress and activities since last year.

This one-day event will feature critical transition-related updates as well as data collection and accountability information from management information systems (MIS). This forum will emphasize collaboration between MIS and exceptional student education (ESE) personnel and provide an opportunity for MIS and ESE personnel to learn and work together in order to best support students in their districts and understand how to work together to support transition-related data.



**Region 5** - February 10, 2020

Click [here](#) to register.

**Region 4** - February 11, 2020

Click [here](#) to register.

**Region 3** - February 12, 2020

Click [here](#) to register.

**Region 2** - February 13, 2020

Click [here](#) to register.

**Region 1** - February 14, 2020

Click [here](#) to register.

**Hartwick Symposium 2020: Choices and Voices for Students with Intellectual Disability through a College Education**

**Date:** February 18, 2020

**Location:** Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando

This one-day symposium regarding inclusive postsecondary education (IPSE) is open to college-age students, alumni, and prospective students with intellectual disability; their families; IPSE faculty and staff; and community agency stakeholders.

Click [here](#) to register.

---

### **VISIONS 2020 sponsored by Florida Division on Career Development and Transition (FLDCDT)**

A conference for those involved in career development and transition of people with exceptionalities.

Date: April 15-17, 2020

Location: Sheraton Lake Buena Vista, Orlando, FL

### **VISIONS 2020 Call for Presentations**

If you would like to be a part of this exciting event, submit your application today! Applications are due January 24th, 2020.

Click [here](#) to apply.

Questions regarding presentation proposals should be sent to [visionspresentations@floridacdt.org](mailto:visionspresentations@floridacdt.org)

---

### **2020 NTACT Capacity Building Institute**

NTACT will host its Capacity Building Institute for interdisciplinary teams from States in Charlotte, NC at the Hilton Charlotte University Place.

Date: May 5-7, 2020

Location: Charlotte, NC at the Hilton Charlotte University Place

Click [here](#) to view the draft agenda.

---

### **Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability & Diversity**

Connect to the only Conference on Disability and Diversity in the Pacific. Backed by 35 years of experience Pac Rim is widely recognized as an international and diverse gathering. Participants represent disability; share the human experiences associated with disability; increase understanding through interdisciplinary research and best practices; and provide action plans to address social needs.

Date: March 2-3, 2020

Location: Hawaii Convention Center, Honolulu, HI

Click [here](#) to register.

## **Upcoming Webinars**

### **Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) Programs**

Are you interested in applying to have your program approved as a Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) program so that you can offer federal financial aid for students with intellectual disability? If you are (or if you are just interested in learning about this topic), this

webinar is for you! Lindsay Wertenberger from Federal Student Aid at the U.S. Department of Education will explain the process for applying to become a CTP program along with some new updates. We encourage you to submit questions ahead of time. Join us to learn more!

Date/Time: Jan 21, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time

Click [here](#) to register.



### Ask the Expert: Effective Strategies to Build Collaborative Partnerships Sponsored by NTACT

Melissa Diehl and Ruth Allison will provide information regarding effective strategies and tools to build collaborative partnerships between VR and LEAs to improve the coordination of services for students with disabilities.

**Date/Time:** Jan 23, 2020 02:00 PM Central Time

Click [here](#) to register.

### Introducing the Think College Standards Continuous Improvement Tool

Think College recently developed a new tool to accompany the standards developed in 2011, the TC Standards Continuous Improvement Tool. It can be used by program staff and their key stakeholders to assess their program's current level of implementation on each of the benchmarks and develop a plan for improvement as needed. The webinar will share the history of the Think College Standards, and the process undertaken to evolve the Standards into a tool for program development and continuous quality improvement.

**Date/Time:** Feb 12, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time

Click [here](#) to register.

### Intentional Inclusion: Cultivating Circles of Support

Who among us doesn't have a tribe, village, or a network or circle of friends that support us? In good times and challenging ones, we use circles of support to help us out. The same goes for people with disabilities, only they are sometimes even more intentional in seeking out just the right people to be part of their circle. Come hear from a parent and sibling about how they have used Circles of Support with their son and brother and how it's also a model that has been used in schools and communities around the country.

**Date/Time:** Apr 2, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time

Click [here](#) to register.

## New Opportunities

### Florida Association of Centers for Independent Living (FACIL) - 2020 Youth Leadership Forum

The Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is a unique leadership-training program for high school students with disabilities. For four days, students will represent their communities as delegates in Florida's state capital, learning to cultivate leadership, citizenship, and social skills.

**Date:** July 22-26, 2020

**Location:** Tallahassee, FL

**Qualifications to Apply:** Florida students aged 16-19 that are currently enrolled in a high school education program (public, private, virtual, GED, homeschool) are invited to apply. Each student must have a diagnosed disability at the time of application. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their leadership potential through participation in school, extracurricular activities and/or community involvement. Applications must be received by March 20, 2020. Download the application to apply [here](#).



[Join Our Mailing List](#)

About Project 10 Topical Briefs:



Project 10 Topical Briefs provide informational summaries and resource links related to secondary transition.

**Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share?**  
Email us at [project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu).

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit our [Topical Briefs](#) page on the [Project 10](#) website.

### **Project 10: Transition Education Network**

Assists Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes.

### **Project 10: Transition Education Network**

**University of South Florida St. Petersburg**

Questions or comments?

Email us at [project10@stpete.usf.edu](mailto:project10@stpete.usf.edu).

[www.project10.info](http://www.project10.info)