Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Project 10 Winter Institute February 23rd, 2023



Presenters



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Objectives

- Explain the purpose and components of WIOA as related to Students with Disabilities.
- Identify the 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- Demonstrate how to refer a student for Pre-ETS to VR.



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014)

- Amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, effective July 2014.
- Defined 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- Added the classification Potentially Eligible to receive services.



Collaboration with Local Educational Agencies (LEA)

"LEAs (i.e., local schools) are obligated to provide transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They are responsible for providing and paying for any transition service that is considered special education or related services necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as required under IDEA.

Pre-employment transition services provided by VR agencies may not duplicate or supplant services that are already provided by local education agencies through the IDEA."

Pre-Employment Transition Services - NTACT:C (transitionta.org)



Federal Regulations

- <u>34 C.F.R. § 361.22(c)</u> Nothing in this part will be construed to reduce the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (<u>20 U.S.C. 1400</u> et seq.) of a local educational agency or any other agency to provide or pay for any transition services that are also considered special education or related services and that are necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities within the State involved.
- <u>34 C.F.R. § 300.324(c)(2)</u>, prohibits VR agencies and other agencies from reducing LEA's obligations to provide transition services that may be considered special education and related services. VR and LEAs are not permitted to shift their responsibilities for providing services for which they are responsible.



Questions



Participating in Pre-ETS

WIOA defines "Student With a Disability" by the following criteria:

- 14-21 years of age,
- Enrolled in school and
 - (Secondary or Post-secondary Education)
- Has a documented disability.
 - (IEP, 504 plan, or other documentation)





The Five Required Pre-Employment Transition Services

- 1. Job Exploration Counseling
- 2. Postsecondary Education Counseling
- 3. Work Readiness Training
- 4. Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE)
- 5. Self-Advocacy Training and Youth Peer Mentoring



Job Exploration Counseling



Discussion or counseling on job exploring options intended to foster motivation, consideration of opportunities and informed decision-making.





Postsecondary Education Counseling



Guidance and counseling includes instruction on:

- Assistance through Student Accessibility Office or Disability Support Services,
- Student financial aid opportunities, and
- Postsecondary options in the local community.



Work Readiness Training



20-hour course on employability and social skills Examples of curriculum topics:

- Resume Writing
- Interviewing Skills
- Searching and applying for jobs online
- Identifying expectations and requirements at work
- Appropriate social behaviors in the workplace
- Handling conflict



Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE)



Work experiences in a community-based setting among individuals without disabilities.

- Conducted in a real work environment in the community.
- Driven by hands-on learning.
- Paid or unpaid.
- Require direct employer or community involvement to be successful.



Self-Advocacy Training

Helps students learn about their rights and responsibilities and to advocate for their needs in Self-Efficacy, Self-Determination, and Self-Awareness.

Self-Advocacy Curriculum contains instruction on:

- Americans with Disabilities Act,
- Learning one's rights and responsibilities,
- Self-Awareness and Self-Determination,
- Goal Setting, and
- Action Planning.



Youth Peer Mentoring



Intensive, time-limited self-advocacy training service, approximately 3-6 months

Leverages like-aged peers to engage youth by connecting them to long-term community resources such as:

- Disability-related community resources,
- Social networks, and
- Career-related networks.



Questions



How can students access VR's Pre-ETS?





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Changes and Additions in 2023

VR is transitioning the AWARE case management system which combines many separate applications such as:

- RIMS,
- STAR Portal, and
- eReferral/PERM.

New and redesigned Pre-ETS including a few new fee-for-service Pre-ETS!

- Postsecondary Education Counseling,
- Postsecondary Education Campus Tour,
- WBLE Informational Interview, and
- WBLE Job Shadowing /Workplace Tour.



Thank You

To learn more, call 800-451-4327 or find an office near you by visiting RehabWorks.org.

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an equal opportunity employer. It is against the law for VR as a recipient of Federal financial assistance to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief. The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. VR program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2021 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$176,521,122. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$47,775,094) were funded by Florida State Appropriations. Revised October 2022.

