

Project 10 Topical Briefs are published on a monthly basis. Each issue focuses on a specific topic or theme. This month the *Topical Brief* is a special edition focused on

Florida's Employment Initiatives for Youth with Disabilities



Third Party Cooperative Arrangements



TPCA are offered by the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), in collaboration with the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services (BEESS) and Local Education Agencies (LEA). Each agency promotes the use of evidence-based practices and is committed to assisting students with disabilities successfully transition from school to postsecondary education, training and meaningful careers. Work experience while in high school, especially paid work experience, is the best known predictor that a student will become employed and live independently after high school.

TPCA are written agreements between VR and LEA, and are designed to provide paid and non-paid community-based work experiences (CBWE). The school district refers to CBWE as community-based vocational education and is often provided as part of the student's curriculum.

The TPCA will serve students with the most significant disabilities who also require VR Supported Employment (SE) services in order to obtain employment. Students who will require ongoing supports in order to maintain employment, including those participating in school district extended programs, will need to be determined eligible for VR SE services and have an Individualized Plan of Employment (IPE) developed with and approved by a VR counselor.

The TPCA will:

- Serve students ages 16 or older, VR eligible and with a VR SE IPE
- Have services delivered by one or two employment specialists (i.e., job coaches)
- Require school districts to provide matching funds from non-federal, general revenue sources to align with VR formula funding to leverage and braid fiscal resources
- Use each employment specialist to serve at least six students during a school year
- Provide funding, based on service deliverables to be performed by the employment specialist

VR again offered the Third Party Cooperative Arrangements (TPCA) for the 2015-16 school year. All school districts were given the opportunity to renew current arrangements or apply for a new TPCA. The 2015-16 TPCA will go into effect once approved, but no earlier than July 1, 2015.

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Secondary Transition, Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/exceptional-student-edu/secondary-transition.stml>

The Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services has created a webpage with state and national resources, state contacts, regulations and general information on secondary transition for parents, educators and professionals.

Employment First Initiative



<http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/>

Florida became an Employment First state by Executive Order in October, 2013. Employment First is both a philosophy and policy. It means that employment is the first option for all individuals, including those with significant disabilities.

Abilities Work



<https://abilitieswork.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Florida's Employment First Initiative has developed the Florida Abilities Work Web Portal and Help desk to help employers find qualified candidates with disabilities who are ready and able to work in their communities, and provide them with information that would help with their hiring decisions. The web portal offers employment information for both employers and

For more information, see:

- Memorandum, Third Part Cooperative Arrangements, http://www.project10.info/files/FY2015-16_Third_Party_Cooperative_Arrangements.pdf
- 2015-16 Third Party Cooperative Arrangement (TPCA) Questions and Answers Brief, http://www.project10.info/files/FY2015-16_QA_TPCA.pdf
- REBA TPCA, <http://www.rehabworks.org/TPCA.shtml>

job seekers.

- Abilities Work Flyer: http://www.project10.info/files/Abilities_Work_One-Pager_Color2.pdf
- Abilities Work Memo: http://www.project10.info/files/MEMORANDUM_AbilitiesWork_Draft_2_6_14_Revised.docx

Should you have any questions, please contact Sheila Ward, VR Transition Administrator, by email at Sheila.Ward@vr.fldoe.org or by phone at 850-245-3373.

NEW! MyCareerShines, Florida's New Education and Career Planning Tool

Florida's education and economy have changed dramatically during the last decade. To help Floridians succeed in the increasingly competitive global marketplace, Florida is implementing a new education and career planning tool for students and adults - the first major upgrade in a quarter century.

The new online planning tool is called MyCareerShines and will be implemented in phases beginning in the 2015-2016 school year. Navigator™ for middle and high school students will be launched in September 2015, followed by Journey™ for postsecondary students and adults in October 2015. Galaxy™ for elementary students will be launched in 2016.

With MyCareerShines, Floridians will be able to explore careers, identify personal preferences for future employment, and learn about the educational requirements for specific professions. The new planning tools will replace Florida CHOICES, which will not be offered after June 30, 2015. Read the May 15, 2015, Memo from the Florida Department of Education.

For more information, see:

- FDOE Memo, <https://www.flvc.org/documents/96858/104911/05.15.15+Memo+from+the+Florida+Department+of+Education.pdf/a57cf121-0849-4bc3-bf57-766ca2f4232b>
- MyCareerShines Implementation, <https://www.flvc.org/partner-portal/education-and-career-planning-tool-implementation>
- MyCareerShines FAQ, <https://www.flvc.org/documents/96858/104911/05.21.15+Career+Planner+Frequently+Asked+Questions.pdf/b5113db5-eeea-41af-978f-8d3ebb56910c>

Related Project 10 Resources

Career Development

<http://project10.info/CareerDevelopment.php>

Employment

<http://project10.info/Employment.php>

FDOE TAPs and Memos

<http://project10.info/FloridaGuidance.php>

Online Training

<http://project10.info/On-LineTraining.php?PageCategory=On-line%20Training>

Training on Request

<http://project10.info/TrainingOnRequest.php>

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About Project 10 Topical Briefs:

Project 10 *Topical Briefs* provide short information summaries and resource links related to secondary transition.

Have a question? Want to find or recommend a resource? Have some great news to share?

Send us an email at

project10@stpete.usf.edu

For back issues of Project 10 Topical Briefs, visit the newsletter page on the Project 10 website at <http://www.project10.info/Newsletter.php>.

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.