

Vocational Rehabilitation Pre-Employment Transition Services

Partnering to Create a Culture of Work for Youth with Disabilities

EWDS Webinar
October 12, 2017




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network

The logo for the American Job Center network. It features the text "A proud partner of the" in a small, black, sans-serif font. Below that, "americanjobcenter" is written in a blue, sans-serif font, with a red star above the "j". At the bottom, "network" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font.


The Employment First Philosophy

- “Employment First, (is) a framework for systems change that is centered on the premise that **all** citizens, including individuals with significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in integrated employment and community life.”
 - US Department of Labor

Serving Youth...

- There are approximately 25 DVR Counselors who serve transition age youth
 - More than one-third of the individuals DVR serves are transition age youth
 - Every high school has an assigned DVR Counselor
 - DVR clients do not experience any disruption in services at age 18
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Referring Students to VR

- ▶ Students may be referred by parents, teachers, case managers, guidance counselors – or they may refer themselves!
 - ▶ VR recommends that students apply for services two years before high school graduation but may register for Pre-Employment Transition Services at age 14 (9th grade).
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The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES




Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

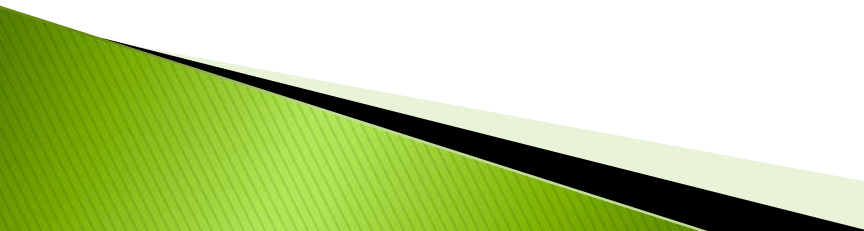
- ▶ Increases collaboration
- ▶ Promotes **competitive, integrated employment** in community-based settings
- ▶ Requires that Maine DVR set aside 15% of its funds to provide Pre Employment Transition Services (or “Pre-ETS”) to high school students with disabilities.

Doesn't replace the requirements of schools and MDOE under IDEA


What are Pre-ETS?

1. Job Exploration Counseling
 2. Work-based Learning Experiences
 3. Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Training and Education
 4. Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living
 5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy
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Who is eligible for Pre-ETS?

- ▶ Must be a “student with a disability” between the ages of 14-21 and enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary educational program
 - ▶ May be a current VR client or may be “Potentially Eligible”
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Registering for Pre-Employment Transition Services

- ▶ Do not need to become a VR client
 - ▶ Student/Parent completes and signs a one-page form
 - ▶ VR provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (in collaboration with the school) until the student no longer needs them, reaches age 21, or needs to apply for VR to receive more individualized transition services.
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Example – Pre-ETS Registration

**Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Request for Pre-Employment Transition Services**

Student Name: _____
Gender: _____ Date of Birth: _____
SSN: (optional) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: ME Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____
School: _____
Grade/Anticipated Graduation: _____

_____ IEP _____ 504 _____ none

By signing this form, I am requesting Pre-Employment Transition Services from the Maine Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) based upon the criteria that I am a student who is potentially eligible for DVR services. I understand that in order to pursue DVR services other than Pre-Employment Transition Services, I will need to complete an application and provide DVR with information needed to determine my eligibility. All information will be kept confidential.

Student Signature: _____
Date _____

Representative Name/Signature: _____ Date _____

(If participant is under 18 a parent or guardian signature is required)

How are Pre-ETS Delivered ?

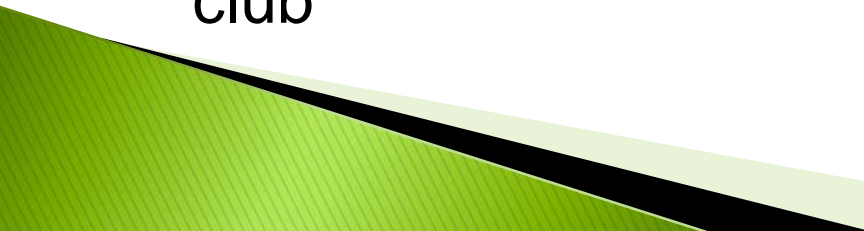
- ▶ In group settings and
 - In partnership with schools
 - In partnership with community organizations
 - In partnership with community rehabilitation providers (CRPs)
 - In partnership with employers
 - In partnership with other state agencies
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Pre-Employment Transition Services

Examples



Pre-ETS – Examples that can be done with Potentially Eligible Students

- ▶ A VRC pairs with a high school teacher to introduce the O*Net
 - ▶ VR works with a local employer to set up a time for area high school students to visit
 - ▶ A VRC joins a life skills classroom to conduct an activity from the Bridge Career Exploration Workshop for a small group of students
 - ▶ VR works with school partners to arrange for a representative of the community college's disability services office to come speak with students
 - ▶ A VRC delivers modules from the Transition Career Exploration Workshop as part of a high school "job club"
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Summer Work Experience - 2017

- ▶ VR supported
 - Approximately 200 students around the state
 - Paid at minimum wage
 - Employment in the community
 - Some school programs, some individual placements
 - Built-in employability class
 - Great feedback




A Work Experience Student

Tinny's Automotive -
Farmington

Youth Career Exploration Days

- ▶ Held in October as part of National Disability Employment Awareness Month
- ▶ Employers include: Bates College, Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Sterling Rope, TD Bank, Volk Packaging, Strainrite
- ▶ Sending schools – Biddeford Alternative Pathways, Lake Region Vocational Center, Lisbon High School, Old Orchard Beach High School and RETC

UMA - Summer Transition Workshop

- ▶ Week-long workshop held at the University of Maine at Augusta.
 - ▶ Activities included: campus tour, presentation on how to disclose a disability and request accommodations, fun speakers, introduction to ASL...
 - ▶ Students identified their Strengths, Needs, Opportunities and Worries in a SNOW Chart.
 - ▶ Job Shadows included : The Senator Inn & Spa, Kennebec Valley YMCA and Maine General Hospital.
 - ▶ Tours included the Augusta CareerCenter and the State House.
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JMG Partnership

- ▶ Across much of the state, JMG will be working closely with VR by providing information on VR and Pre-ETS to students and their families – and assisting them to register for Pre-ETS services!
- ▶ JMG is also partnering with DVR in the Transition Work Based Model Demonstration Grant

Progressive Employment

- ▶ “Everyone is ready for something”
 - Early engagement
 - Informational interviews, job shadows, paid work experience
 - Different way of partnering with the business community
- Continuing for transition-age youth in Portland and Lewiston
- Over 400 Progressive Employment activities to date!
- Expansion to Bangor and Augusta under TWBL grant

Outreach to Families

- ▶ Activities such as:
 - Maine Parent Federation Transition Fairs
 - “Parent Nights”
 - Participation in IEP meetings
 - Presentations
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Job Club

- ▶ Spruce Mtn HS & Leavitt Area HS
- ▶ Partnership with UMF Rehabilitation Students
- ▶ Fun career preparation activities and planning for post-secondary education



Engaging Students!

From the Daily Bulldog
Newspaper - Nov 22, 2016

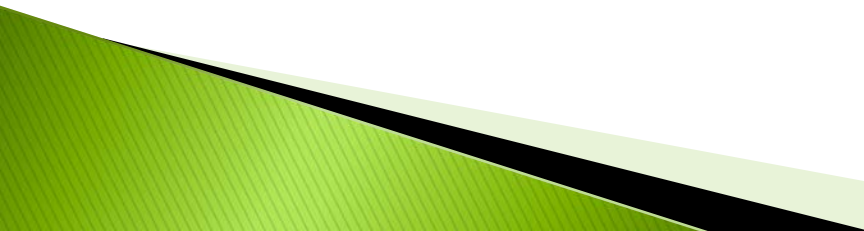
Workplace Readiness/Self-Advocacy

- ▶ Independent Living/Self-Advocacy video series with AlphaOne - http://www.employmentforme.org/youth/youth_webinars.html
 - 6 recorded videos available to watch independently or as a classroom group
 - Overview of services
 - Peer Mentoring
 - Self-advocacy & Disclosure
 - Personal Perspectives
 - Financial Literacy
 - Work Readiness
- ▶ School-based Peer Mentors


Transition Career Exploration Workshops

http://www.maine.gov/rehab/73422/maine_cew/

TCEW is:

- ▶ A curriculum designed to help students discover employment possibilities in an interactive team environment.
 - ▶ Offered in modules that make it flexible for delivery in schools, adult ed, community organizations or other settings
 - ▶ Includes numerous assessments that can support transition planning
 - ▶ Available for use independently or in conjunction with VR
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Transition Work-Based Learning Model Demonstration Grant

- ▶ Partnership with Jobs for Maine's Grads
 - ▶ 5-year initiative to implement and evaluate "Enhanced JMG" and "Progressive Employment" interventions with students in the Augusta and Bangor regions
 - ▶ Goal of improving post-secondary education and employment outcomes
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Discovering Personal Genius

- ▶ Career Planning approach to identify an individual's interests and skills
- ▶ Development of three vocational themes
- ▶ Identify conditions for employment success

- ▶ Opportunities for more use with youth in transition
 - Transition assessment
 - Preparation for referral to VR

VR- School Collaborations

- ▶ Working together to develop employer tours, mock interviews, work-based learning, career assessments at school and in the community
- ▶ Building off summer work experiences!
 - ▶ Let's be creative!

Contact Information

Libby Stone-Sterling

Assistant Director

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

150 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0150

(207)623-7943

Libby.stone-sterling@maine.gov

- ▶ Contact your local DVR office: <http://www.maine.gov/rehab/offices.shtml>
- ▶ Or call 207-623-6799/ for assistance finding an office near you

Maine Department of Labor provides Equal Opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request

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