

Getting to Work: The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Students with Disabilities webinar * March 15, 2017

- ▶ Formed Families Forward works to improve outcomes for children, youth and young adults with special needs raised in families formed through foster care, adoption, kinship care.
- ▶ Offer free trainings (webinars and in-person), individual consultations, resource navigation, publications and support groups for youth/young adults and for parents/caregivers.
- ▶ Serve Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, & Prince William
- ▶ Spring Forward Foster, Adoptive & Kinship Family Fun Day, April 29
- ▶ Piles to Files in Fairfax, May 17; Family Movie Night, June 9
- ▶ WIOA workforce connection in No Va (ages 17-24)-
<http://myskillsource.org/page/id/5/wia>
- ▶ www.FormedFamiliesForward.org and FB
- ▶ Please complete evaluation!!!!



Working Together

to Implement the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act and Pre-Employment Transition Services

**Department for Aging and
Rehabilitative Services (DARS)**



Today's Presenter

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DARS



What we will cover today

- Basic information so we are on the same page
- Exchange of ideas about how to coordinate services



What is WIOA and what does it require of us?

WIOA amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Became law in 2014

Major concentration of transition service to students and youth with disabilities to achieve competitive integrated employment

Expands the population of students and youth who may receive services from vocational rehabilitation (VR)



What is WIOA and what does it require of us?

Calls for greater collaboration between VR and school districts

Emphasizes earlier start on job exploration

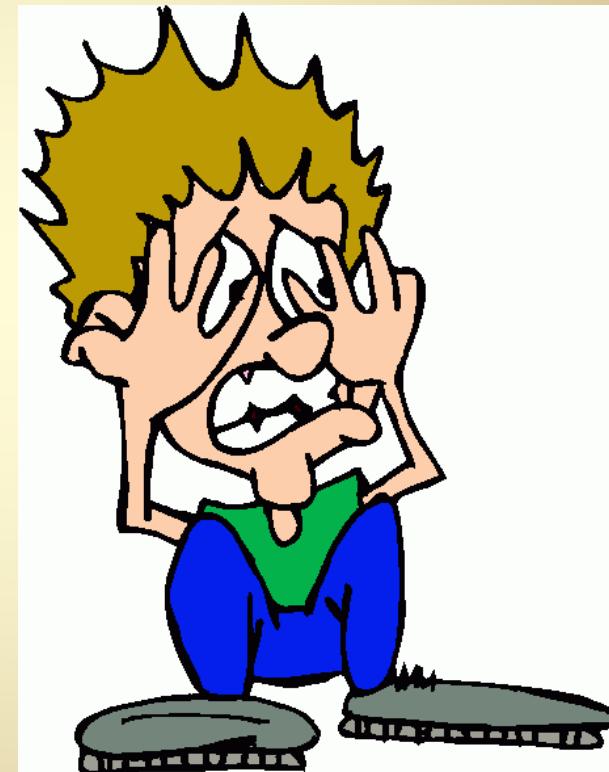
Requires VR reserve part of their federal dollars for service for students and youth (this is not additional funds)

“Congress makes clear that youth with significant disabilities ***must be given every opportunity to receive the services necessary*** to ensure the maximum potential ***to achieve competitive integrated employment.***”

How we comply?

Don't freak out!

We've been doing this
for a long time and
we have a good
Partnership.



Strategic Planning

- Outreach to all involved



- Train, Train, Train

- Work Together





These are the Basics

New Language /Definitions

Five Required Activities

Greater collaboration between school districts and VR
to increase employment success for students and
youth with disabilities

Strong emphasis on providing five required activities



New Language

- Student with Disability
- Youth with Disability
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Potentially eligible
- Services for groups

Student with a disability

A student with a disability is an individual who:

- Is in an educational program
- Is 14 years old
- Not older than 22
- Is eligible for and receiving special education or related services under IDEA; or
- Is an individual with a disability for purposes of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

An Education Program can be

Secondary Education Programs

Non-traditional or alternative secondary education

Programs including home schooling

Post secondary education programs or other

recognized educational programs such as those

offered by juvenile justice

So in summary, a student with a disability does not have to be a VR client to receive Pre-ETS. However it is important that students with disabilities apply for and be determined eligible for VR services as there is a continuum of services to be offered. Not all services are Pre-ETS.



Youth with a disability

An individual with a disability

Not younger than 14

Not older than 24

Not in an educational program



Pre-employment Transition Services Overview

These services are an early start on job exploration
Must be made available to all students with disabilities whether they are VR clients or not
May begin when a student requests or is recommended for one or more of the five services
Documentation of a disability must be provided to VR
Assist the student in identifying career interests
Must be provided in collaboration with the school
The only services that can be provided under VR's reserved funds.

Potentially Eligible

- DARS can serve students with disabilities who are potentially eligible for services and can provide the Pre-ETS activities we will be discussing in the next few slides. These students must be in an educational program, either traditional or non-traditional and be in need of such services.

Pre-ETS Activities

Below are the five areas that are offered:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work based learning
- Counseling on opportunities for post secondary education
- Workplace readiness
- Instruction in self advocacy





Job Exploration Counseling

- Can be provided in school or the community
- May include discussions about the student's career inventory assessment
 - Career pathways
 - In demand occupations

Work-based learning may include

EXAMPLES

Work experience

On the job evaluation

Apprenticeships

Worksite tours

Mentoring

EXAMPLES

Paid work

Unpaid Work Experience

Volunteer work

Internships

Job shadowing



Work-based learning

- Can be provided in school or after school
- Must be provided in an integrated setting



Counseling on Postsecondary Education and/or Transition Training Options

Researching options on line

Tour programs

Meetings with VR counselor and/or education
counselors

Explore financial assistance

Completing FAFSA



Workplace Readiness

Preparation for work or training

Job applications

Interviewing

Soft skills

Benefits planning

Transportation education



Instruction on self-advocacy

- Disability disclosure
- Job accommodations needed
- Assistive technology
- Creation of a visual resume
- Independent living
- Participation in youth leadership programs
- Learn about rights and responsibilities



Cooperative Responsibilities

- Assessments
- Career Development
- Exposure to world of work
- Skill development
- Connecting services
- Employment Outcomes



Education Responsibilities

- Refer students to VR for Pre-ETS or VR Services with parental permission to receive Pre-ETS and/or Transition Services
- Invite VR counselor to IEP meetings
- Plan course of study to include career development, postsecondary and training
 - Provide information to assist the VR counselor to determine eligibility of VR
 - Secure consent for release of information
 - Assist the VR counselor to access the school environment



DRS Responsibilities

- Attending IEP meetings if possible, with parent or school invitation
- Working with the local workforce development boards, one-stop centers, and employers to develop work opportunities for students with disabilities;
- Working with schools to coordinate and ensure the provision of pre-employment transition services; and
- Attending person-centered planning meetings for students with disabilities receiving services.



Order of Selection

If a student with a disability received pre-employment transition services prior to being determined eligible and assigned to a closed order of selection priority category (waitlist), he or she may continue to receive pre-employment transition services while on the waitlist.



Where are we now?

Questions



Contact Me!

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