



Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities in Postsecondary Education Programs

Sheila Ward, Senior Consultant



What is VR?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an agency that helps people with disabilities become independent through employment.

Prepare



Find



Keep





VR Transition Programs

- Prepare youth for employment
- Help students transition from high school to
 - Career/Technical School
 - College or University, or
 - Directly into employment
- Engage students in practical, hands-on activities

VR Transition Programs



A blurred background image showing graduates in blue caps and gowns at a ceremony.

VR Transition Programs

- Third Party Cooperative Arrangement
- Project SEARCH
- High School High Tech (HSHT)
- Summer Youth Program
- Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Programs

A photograph of a graduation ceremony with students in blue caps and gowns. The image is partially obscured by a dark blue overlay at the bottom.

Support for Students in IPSE Programs

- VR provides support for customers participating in IPSE programs, but does not support the programs themselves
- Services must be employment related and support the individual's vocational goal in the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).



Important for Success

- IEP and Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) alignment

How does this happen???

VR IPSE Support

Students in High School

- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Guidance and Counseling
- Employer required uniforms and work supplies
- Needed IPSE background checks/screenings
- Related work experience or placement services
- Provision of information for accommodations
- Specific types of coursework (i.e. work readiness training)



VR IPSE Support

Students NOT in High School

- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Tuition and fees (Courses must align with the student's vocational goal)
- Books, supplies and equipment for approved coursework
- Assistive services and devices needed to prepare for or be employed
- Transportation assistance
- Time limited medical treatment
- Time limited psychological treatment



VR IPSE Resources

Technical Assistance Paper

Guidance for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Support of Participants in Florida's Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Programs

Technical Assistance Paper

Purpose

This Technical Assistance Paper (TAP) is guidance for VR staff authorizing, reviewing or supporting VR services delivered to participants in Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Programs. It covers background on the IPSE programs in Florida, services that may be authorized by VR to support eligible participants, and provisions for reimbursement. For this TAP and additional resources, visit the [VR-iNet Transition Youth page on IPSE Programs](#).

Background

In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) authorized the development of programs to provide postsecondary opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to enroll in courses and study alongside same-aged peers on a college campus. The U.S. Department of Education, provided 5-year grants to institutions of higher education to develop *Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities into Higher Education (TPSID)*.

Think College was authorized in 2010 as the National Coordinating and Resource Center for TPSID programs. Visit [ThinkCollege.net](#) for technical assistance, research, resources and information.

State-Level Support to Develop and Expand IPSE Programs

The **Florida Consortium for Inclusive Higher Education (FCIHE)** received a TPSID grant to assist in the development and expansion of Model Comprehensive Transition Programs (CTP) for students with intellectual disabilities, in Florida. The CTP is a federal certification. Certification as a CTP allows eligible students to receive Pell Grant assistance.

The Consortium is comprised of the lead institution, University of Central Florida (UCF) and three partner institutions, Florida International University (FIU), University of South Florida, St. Petersburg (USFSP), and Florida State College at Jacksonville (FSCJ). Visit [www.FCIHE.com](#) for more information.

A CTP must meet the following requirements:

IPSE Liaisons

Vocational Rehabilitation Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Program Liaisons 2017

(Last Update 10/18/2017)

VR Areas	Liaison	Phone	Email	Address
1	Ella Parker	(850) 36-2095	Ella.Parker@vr.fldoe.org	1000 College Blvd. Bldg. 6, Rm 659 Pensacola, FL 32504
1	Chantay Jerger	(850) 245-3440	Chantay.Jerger@vr.fldoe.org	1311 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100 A, Tallahassee, FL 32301
1	Keith Sutton	(850) 482-9601	Keith.Sutton@vr.fldoe.org	4735 Highway 90, Marianna, FL 32446
2	Connie Brown-Wilson	(904) 486-7134	Connie.Brown-Wilson@vr.fldoe.org	2050 Art Museum Drive Suite 205, Jacksonville, FL 32207
2	Lena White	(904) 486-7139	Lena.White@vr.fldoe.org	2050 Art Museum Drive Suite 101, Jacksonville, FL 32207
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5	Courtney Faunce	(239) 340-7275	Courtney.Faunce@vr.fldoe.org	5264 Summerlin Commons Way, #404, Ft Myers, FL 33907
5	Lorine Edwards	(941) 882-7732	Lorine.Edwards@vr.fldoe.org	897 E. Venice Ave., Room 112, Venice, FL 34285
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6	Joanna Hernandez	(305) 256-6200	Joanna.Hernandez@vr.fldoe.org	11285 SW 211 St. Suite 305 Miami, FL 33189
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FLDOE Resources

Memorandum

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Gerard Robinson
Commissioner of Education



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Area Directors
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Area Supervisors
Exceptional Student Education Directors

FROM: Bill Palmer, Director
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
Bill Palmer

Bambi J. Lockman, LL.D., Chief
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
Bambi J. Lockman

DATE: October 6, 2011

SUBJECT: Florida's Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)



Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

- Early Access
- Increased outreach and engagement
- Expanding collaboration opportunities

To increase post-school outcomes

Additional Transition Services

Pre-Employment Transition Services →



- Soft Skills
- Social Skills
- 21st Century Skills
- Appropriate work behaviors
- Hands-on work experiences

Outcome of Pre-ETS

Benefits

- Identify abilities, strengths, and needs
- Learn skills that can be applied to any job or career path
- Gain self-confidence, self-esteem
- Build relationships

Outcomes

- Narrowed career goals
- Clear career pathways
- Refined skills for the 21st Century workforce



A photograph of a graduation ceremony with students in blue caps and gowns. The image is partially obscured by a blue overlay at the bottom.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Available to ALL students with Disabilities

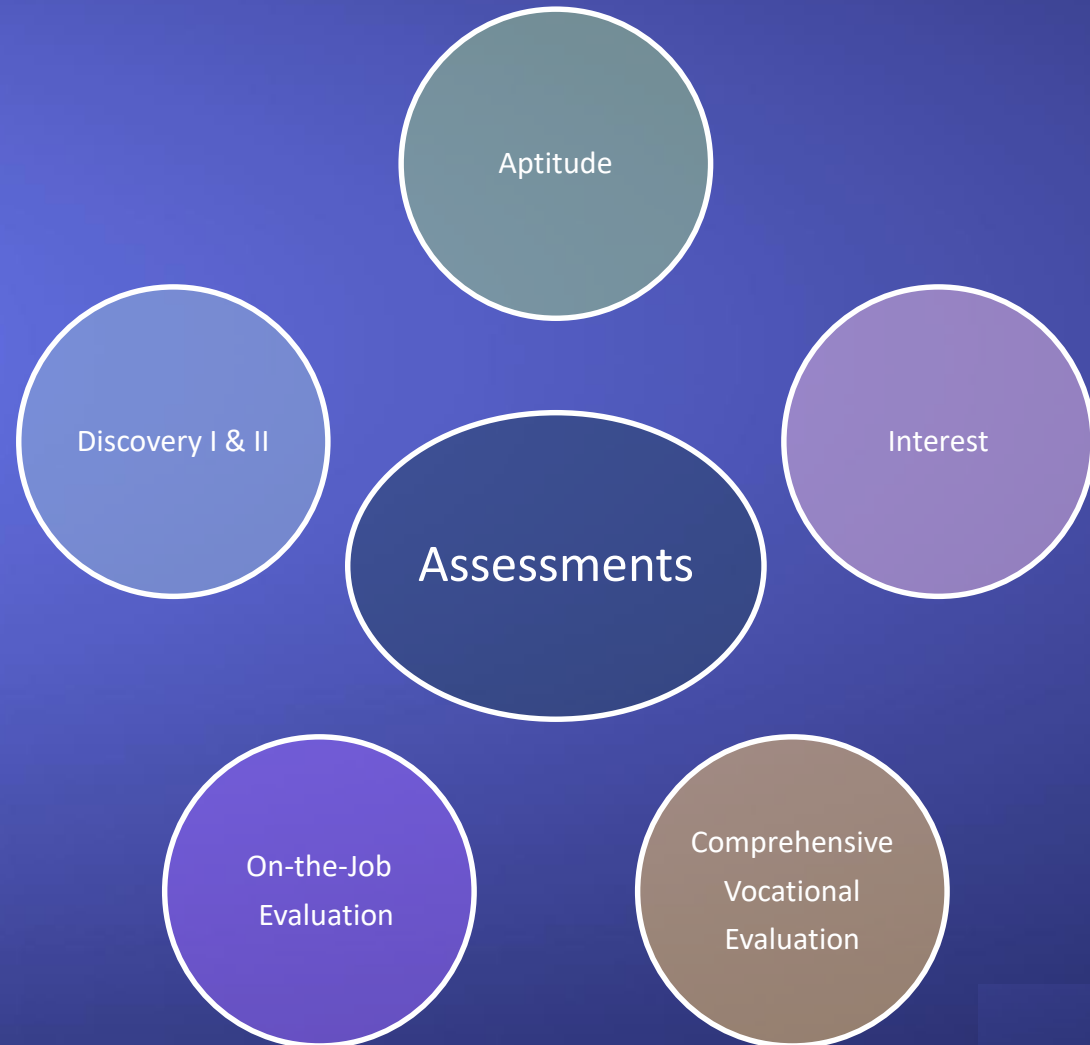
- Career Exploration Counseling
- Work Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Training and Peer Mentoring*
- Postsecondary Educational Counseling**
- Community-Based Work Experiences

*Service is being added, rolling out in February

**Service is being developed

Career Exploration Counseling

- Skills
- Abilities
- Aptitudes
- Interests



Work Readiness Training

Focuses on employability and related skills that prepare students to work

Resume

Transportation

Interview

Conflict

Job search

Contacts

Applications



Self-Advocacy Training and Peer Mentoring

Teaches individuals how to speak up for themselves and make decisions about their lives to become more independent



Becoming self-aware

Knowing your rights

Requesting reasonable accommodations

Setting goals

Developing an action plan

Learning how to advocate

Postsecondary Educational Counseling

Provides an awareness of career pathway options with job and career information



Community-Based Work Experiences

Provides practical hands-on training for employability skills



Community-Based Work Experiences

Allows students to:

- Apply and practice soft and social skills
- Get an idea of what work is about
- Develop work skills and gain experience
- Build relationships leading to job references
- Identify any needed work accommodations

A photograph of several blue graduation caps (mortarboards) on a stage, with a person's head visible in the background. The image is partially obscured by a blue overlay.

Pre-ETS are available until the student

- Reaches his/her 22nd birthday;
- Is no longer participating in Pre-ETS;
- Requests the case to be closed;
- Exits high school;
- Exits postsecondary school

Providing Pre-ETS

- Do you provide any of these services?
- Are you getting paid by VR to provide them?
- Would you like to?

Becoming a Vocational Rehabilitation Vendor
Friday, January 26 from 8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.





Your VR Employment Programs Contacts

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Project SEARCH, Self-Employment, Pre-ETS, Career Source, CAPE, Apprenticeships, Individual Placement & Support, Peer Specialist Program

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Pre-ETS, STAR, Self-Advocacy Training Service, Third Party Cooperative Arrangements, VR/SD Liaison