# CHAPTER 11 - Transition Services

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## Definitions

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) consist of the five required services, and, as appropriate, the nine authorized activities set forth under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). Pre-Employment Transition Services are available statewide to students with disabilities.

Required Services

The five required services provided to students with disabilities consist of job exploration counseling; work-based learning experiences; counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs at institutions of higher education; workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living; and instruction in self-advocacy.

Student with a disability:

Student with a disability means an individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who Is not older than 21 years of age, and who is also not younger than 14 years of age (or the minimum age for receipt of pre-employment transition services should the state elect such an age).

Transition Services:

Transition services are defined as a coordinated set of activities for a student or youth with a disability, designed with an outcome-oriented process which promotes movement from school to post school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational training, competitive and integrated employment, supported employment, continuing adult education, adult services, or community participation. Transition services may be provided to students and youth with disabilities.

Youth with a Disability:

Youth with a disability means an individual with a disability who is not enrolled in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who Is not older than 21 years of age, and who is also not younger than 14 years of age (or the minimum age for receipt of pre-employment transition services should the state elect such an age).

## Guidelines for Provision of Transition Services:

The guidelines below will be followed with respect to referrals of students and youth with disabilities.

Students and youth with disabilities who may qualify for Commission Vocational Rehabilitation services who have reached the age of fourteen (14) will be referred to a rehabilitation counselor, who will contact the student, parents, and school personnel to begin planning for vocational rehabilitation services. The counselor will attend Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings as an advisor to school personnel on careers, educational preparation, and resources available to the student with a disability. The counselor will open an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) when the student or youth with a disability turns 14, or as soon as possible. All Individualized Plans for Employment will be coordinated with Individualized Plans for Education in terms of goals, objectives, and services.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors will maintain open communication with the student with a disability, parents, and school personnel, striving for a close cooperative relationship. The function of this relationship should not be to take the responsibility for college, career, and similar life choices away from the student; rather, it should provide the enhancement of a supportive environment, which encourages and nurtures the type of self-confidence, which makes vocational choices possible.

The Commission will work closely with educational institutions and other appropriate agencies in order to provide for the smooth transition of students with disabilities from the educational system to other services in communities. Some of the services provided by the Commission that should be considered when developing the transition program include training in activities of daily living, assistance with higher education, job training and placement, supported employment and the purchase of appropriate technology to assist students and youth with disabilities to achieve the selected goal.

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## STEP (Students in Transition to Employment Program):

The Commission will provide summer work experience to students with disabilities as a part of the Students in Transition to Employment Program (STEP), pending receipt of a timely application. This program is meant to give students who are blind or visually impaired exposure to a wide range of employment possibilities to assist the student with a disability to make an appropriate vocational choice when the time for exiting the school system occurs. All students with disabilities participating in the STEP Program must have an individualized Plan for Employment in place prior to the start of the STEP program.