

IEP Transition Planning

For students with the most significant disabilities

As a result of new legislation within the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), Office of Special Education (OSE), and the Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) offer the following guidance. As districts develop Individual Education Programs (IEPs) and provide transition services/activities for students with the most significant disabilities, consider the following:

1. As a part of the IEP process through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), schools will continue to be responsible for providing transition services to include work based learning opportunities.
2. Schools are encouraged to continue to conduct extensive evaluations and transition assessments, as outlined in IDEA, and work in partnership with VR and/or the Hook Center at the University of Missouri to provide pre-employment transition services to help students progress toward competitive, integrated employment goals.
3. When the IEP Team believes competitive, integrated employment, with or without employment supports, is not a viable post-secondary transition goal, but extended employment/ commensurate wage employment is being considered, VR should be included in the decision. Per IDEA requirement, written consent of the parent/guardian, or student if emancipated, is required prior to VR's participation in the IEP team meeting. Advanced notice of the scheduled meeting will assist VR in attending. There may also be instances when the VR counselor will need to participate by phone or make alternate arrangements.
4. If through the process of evaluation, VR determines the student would not benefit from VR services to reach a competitive, integrated employment goal, extended employment may be considered as a post-secondary goal.
5. Certification for extended employment in a sheltered workshop may be requested through the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Office of Special Education, Sheltered Workshops at <http://dese.mo.gov/special-education/sheltered-workshops/certification-specialists>.

This is an opportunity for Special Education and Vocational Rehabilitation to work collaboratively to serve high school students with disabilities.