



WEST VIRGINIA PARENT
TRAINING & INFORMATION

Transition News

"Bits and Pieces"

June 2021



WVPTI Mission

Our mission is to empower families as advocates and partners in improving education, health, and transition outcomes for their children and youth with disabilities and special healthcare needs with a commitment to diversity and equity.

We are committed to providing parents and families the tools to ensure that children, youth, and young adults with special needs lead enriched lives.



Welcome to WVPTI Transition Newsletter! WVPTI provides trainings, information and resources. Please check out our website for other resources:

www.wvpti-inc.org

Brenda Lamkin,
Executive Director of
WVPTI

The Key to the Future Awaits You... Transition Tips for Students with Disabilities and their Families

Thinking about post-secondary education and career readiness can be overwhelming. There are so many decisions and so many options. It can feel like the most significant decision of your life. Take a deep breath, and make one choice at a time. Parents and families will be there to support you in your next steps. WV Parent Training and Information will provide training, information, and resources for transition in post-secondary education, career exploration, independent living, and self-advocacy to you and your family. We will provide the contact information to the organizations that will assist you in meeting your specific goals. Remember, students, you must do what's right for you. Trust yourself!!

If post-secondary education has your attention, you should know what programs you might be interested in and what type of environment would work for you and your family. There are approximately 300 post-secondary programs for students with disabilities across the United States. Will you continue to live at home, in the community, or in the college dorm? Will you go home on weekends? If so, how will you commute? Will you need a mentor for support? Be sure to check out the Disability Resource Department on every campus you are interested in attending. It would help if you looked at every aspect of life when you look for a college. Make sure it is a fit for 'you.' Some students may be starting to search for what job opportunities are available in their area of interest and desired location. WVPTI offers students with disabilities that have registered with their local WVDRS Self-Advocacy Training for Pre-ETS.



Personal Journeys in Transition

Discover young peoples' personal stories about their journey to Transition.



Deandra Bardell has a story about becoming a graduate of computer science and mathematics. She has Cerebral Palsy and has accomplished navigating the world to succeed.
<https://www.pacer.org/>



Ashley Anderson discusses life on the campus as a university student with a disability.
<https://youtu.be/kr5hHmZbQHW>



Kcory Woltz discusses the people who helped him succeed and his advice for transition for young people with dyslexia and other disabilities. https://youtu.be/7o_1-yBWFik

Youth with Disabilities

Supporting a Successful Transition to Adulthood

“Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life. Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement.” -Golda Meir

Resources from the Director...

Here are some excellent resources for you:

Foster Care Transition Toolkit from US Department of Education:
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/foster-care/youth-transition-toolkit.pdf>

Casey Life Skills helps you identify the small steps to achieving your dreams:
https://caseylifeskills.secure.force.com/clsa_learn_youth

Pacer Center's Transitioning to Life After High School:
<https://www.pacer.org/students/transition-to-life/>

Support Services for Youth in Transition: Youth with Disabilities
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/outofhome/independent/support/disabilities/>



Brenda Lamkin, Exe. Director of WVPTI

West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services Helps Youth Transition Into the Future!



Preparing youth for future jobs and independence can be quite challenging for today's parents and guardians.

Teenagers and young adults with disabilities have additional considerations when deciding what life may look like after high school. The transition planning process begins in middle school and continues through high school graduation and beyond.

West Virginia's youth with disabilities, age 14-21, can get help from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

DRS operates the federal-state vocational rehabilitation program, which assists people with disabilities by providing services to help them prepare for and maintain employment.

One of the ways DRS can help West Virginia's students with disabilities is through its pre-employment transition services, also known as Pre-ETS, which are activities that provide an early start at job exploration to assist these students with transitioning from school to postsecondary education or employment.

These career planning services can be provided to students with disabilities, who are eligible or potentially eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, throughout the school year and through specialized summer activities. Services include:

1. Job Exploration Counseling provides students with opportunities to learn about various career options and work skills necessary to be successful.
2. Work-Based Learning Experiences provides students with opportunities in the community to help connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career options.
3. Counseling on Educational Opportunities provides students with information and guidance on a variety of postsecondary education and training opportunities.
4. Workplace Readiness Training develops employability skills, social skills and independent living skills.
5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy provides activities to help students develop self-advocacy skills necessary to succeed in education, workplace and the community.

A student may be eligible for Pre-ETS if:

- he or she has a disability and attends a secondary, postsecondary or other recognized education program;
- is between the ages of 14 -21 years old;
- is receiving, special education or related services under an IEP or 504 plan; and must be eligible or potentially eligible for vocational rehabilitation services.

An individual is eligible for vocational rehabilitation services if:

- He or she has a physical or mental condition that substantially interferes with the ability to prepare for, enter, engage or retain employment; and,
- Vocational rehabilitation services will benefit the individual to become employable.

To learn more about how DRS can help your student transition from school to employment or postsecondary education or training, contact DRS today by calling 1-800-642-8207 or by emailing

DRSQuestions@wv.gov. By: Tracy Carr, Senior Manager, Gov. and Public Relations WVDRS

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The **West Virginia Parent Training and Information, Inc. (WVPTI)** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit parent organization committed to improving the lives and education of ALL children through a special emphasis on children and youth with all disabilities and special healthcare needs. We serve WV as the federally funded Parent Training Center and we are also the Family Voice State Affiliate Organization (FVSAO).



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Self— Advocacy is our strength!

- Speaking up for yourself,
- Asking for what you need,
- Negotiating for yourself (working with others to reach an agreement that will meet your needs),
- Knowing your rights and responsibilities,
- Using the resources that are available to you,
- Being able to explain your dis-

ability either by the use of written words, pictures.

- Being able to explain your disability either by the use of written words, pictures or gestures. For the full article; <http://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/transition-tool-kit/self-advocacy>



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