

## Transition Services for High School Grads



Washington State must ensure that students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) will exit school with a plan to engage in the workforce and post-secondary options.

- Only 51% of eligible students are connected to employment services one year after exiting high school.
- Only 29% of eligible students are employed nine months after exit<sup>i</sup>.

The goal for the Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is to increase the number of young adults with IDD engaged with employment services and working one year after exiting school by 3% in 5 years.

Washington State has demonstrated that when systems partnerships exist, students with IDD are 3.9 times more likely to have a job when they exit school<sup>ii</sup>. Unfortunately, there is not a statewide collaboration on school to work transitions, so service access is not equitable. Too many students are missing job pathways.

### Maintain Investment in Students Transitioning Out of School

**Preserve current DDA eligibility** as the proposed eligibility changes would eliminate services to approximately 8,100 DDA clients, not including exiting students that will also be disqualified. (August OFM budget proposal)

**Support DDA Budget Request** to fund 878 students with disabilities exiting high school to help them get a job and other services needed for a safe, productive, and meaningful quality life after graduation.

### Invest in the Transition Collaborative's Recommendations to the Legislature<sup>iii</sup>

**Funding for Statewide School to Work:** Invest in statewide access to School to Work for students with developmental disabilities. Currently, School to Work is only available in 7 counties. According to DDA, there are 872 students estimated to exit in 2021, based on a 3% increase in enrollment. DDA's potential investment in the first year of exiting students, in partnership with DVR, would be \$4,360,000 or \$5,000 per student plus administrative program management.

**Regional Interagency Transition Networks:** Support new and existing regional interagency transition networks. With an investment of \$72,000, WA can establish common guidelines across regional networks, to ensure equitable access and participation while maintaining local context, autonomy, and flexibility. Networks would outline their mission, priorities, agreements, and measurable goals relating to regional transition data and needs.

**Data Share Agreements and System Navigation Supports:** Streamline collaboration and navigation support to help local communities increase student goals and employment outcomes.

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<sup>i</sup> Employment Outcomes Monitoring Report, DSHS, Yearly Cohorts of Individuals Turning 21, Data Current through March 2020

<sup>ii</sup> Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration data 2015-2018.

<sup>iii</sup> The Transition Collaborative Summative Report was the result of proviso language from Senate Bill 6032,