



Transition Services for High School Grads

The Community Employment Alliance (CEA) is an association comprised of employment and community inclusion service providers in Washington. As a unified voice for providers making up 65% of the Developmental Disabilities Administration's Individual Supported Employment and Community Inclusion caseload, we are committed to the overall quality of employment outcomes for Washingtonians with Disabilities. The CEA wants the Transition Collaboratives' Recommendations supported and funded.

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 873 students estimated to exit in 2022.

Regional Interagency Transition Networks:

Support new and existing regional interagency transition networks. 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:

The Transition Collaborative found universal consensus among stakeholder support for a data share system among OSPI, DDA, and DVR. A notification list of potentially eligible students shared from OSPI to DDA and DVR within two years of students leaving the school system has enormous potential to minimize gaps in services through the transition process.

System Navigation:

Streamline collaboration, information, and navigation support to increase connectivity to needed services after school. **We don't want Washington students graduating to the couch! Let's help them get into the workforce!** Students with IDD are 3.9 times more likely to have a job if they exit school through a transition partnership².

Proven Outcomes:

Washington State has demonstrated that when systems partnerships exist, 74% of students with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) will have a job within a year of exiting school. 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. It's time to provide an employment transition service to every student in Washington State.

School to Work:

The most commonly used transition model in Washington is School To Work, a program in 7 of our 39 counties, funded through county millage and DVR. School To Work coordinates employment services while the student is still in school. This program helps individuals navigate the complex adult service system in addition to having higher post school outcomes. Unfortunately, there is no statewide collaboration on school to work transitions, so service access is not equitable.

- Only 50% of eligible students connect to employment services after exiting high school³.
- Only 32% of DDA eligible students are employed one year after exit³.
- For those counties with a School to Work program, there is a 23% higher service connection rate than communities without (43% vs 53%)⁴.

Job Foundations:

In 2021, DDA launched a statewide pilot to expand access to vocational preparation and system connection. Despite school closures due to the pandemic, counties recognized the need to strengthen transition services. 22 counties launched the program and 15 of those Counties did not have a School to Work program; access is expanding! As of July 2021, 120 students have completed Job Foundation.

Leading the Way: Washington continues to rank highest in the nation for employment outcomes for people with developmental disabilities. Providers have the expertise to support student outcomes if the state maintains adequate reimbursement for services.

1. Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Report to the Legislature: Transition Collaborative Summative Report 2020
2. Washington State Developmental Disabilities Administration data 2015-2018
3. Washington State Developmental Disabilities Employment Outcomes Monitoring Report, April 2021
4. Washington State Developmental Disabilities DDA Eligible + Transition Client Count 2017-2019 (as of 6.16.21)

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