The Transition Collaborative was created to improve transition for students who are/will be eligible for services from Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), in collaboration with the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), are required to develop an implementation plan for building statewide capacity among school districts to improve transition.

When planning for transition from school to post-school life, students with disabilities, families, school staff, and agencies must navigate between three complex systems across the following state agencies: OSPI, DVR, and DDA.

Legislators recognized a need to make this less complex of a process and ensure that these agencies were sharing data and providing better outcomes for students with IDD who transition from school to adulthood, most specifically making a person-centered pathway for each student as they look forward to employment, training, post secondary education and independent living skills they may need.

In 2022, the Washington State Legislature passed SSB 5790, which would help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) by moving forward the Transition Collaborative’s four recommendations: Expanding Statewide School to Work program, establishing a Transition Council, Interagency Transition Networks (ITNs), and data share agreement with OSPI, DDA & DVR. The Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC) and the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council (WADDC) are also involved in the group of state agencies working on improving outcomes for students with IDD.

The School To Work Program is a partnership among DVR, DDA, counties, school districts, and employment service providers who connect employment services to students with IDD while they are still accessing high school transition services. SSB 5790 required DSHS to establish a School to Work Program in all counties in the state to connect IDD students who are receiving high school transition services to supported employment services.

The Statewide Transition Collaborative group has been moving forward with the implementation of statewide employment and navigation supports for students with IDD.

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