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2019

Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in TPSID Programs

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Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in TPSID Programs

By Meg Grigal, Frank A. Smith, and Eileen Glavey-Labedz

This Fast Fact describes ways that Transition Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID programs) engage with state vocational rehabilitation agencies to provide pre-employment transition services to students with intellectual disability enrolled in colleges and universities.

INTRODUCTION

Pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS), mandated by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, 2014) are career-focused preparation services for youth with disabilities, ages 14–22, who may be eligible for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services. State VR agencies are required to reserve 15% of their federal funds to provide Pre-ETS. The provision of Pre-ETS expands VR service delivery to a broader group of potentially eligible students with disabilities (Miller, Sevak, & Honeycutt, 2017).

The Pre-ETS that VR agencies are now required to provide include job exploration counseling, work-based learning experiences, counseling on enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs, workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills, and instruction in self-advocacy (WINTAC, 2016).

Career preparation is one of the key activities addressed by the TPSID model demonstration projects. These grant-funded projects, implemented by institutions of higher education (IHEs), are creating and expanding high-quality, inclusive comprehensive transition and postsecondary programs for students with intellectual disabilities.

Students participating in the TPSID programs are provided with experiences focusing on academic enrichment; socialization; independent living skills, including self-advocacy skills; and integrated work experiences and career skills that lead to employment. Approximately 71% of students enrolled in TPSID programs fall into the age range of eligibility for Pre-ETS. Given the emphasis on preparation for employment in the TPSIDs' charge (Grigal, Hart, Smith, Papay, & Domin, 2018), the extent to which these programs are engaged with this new aspect of VR

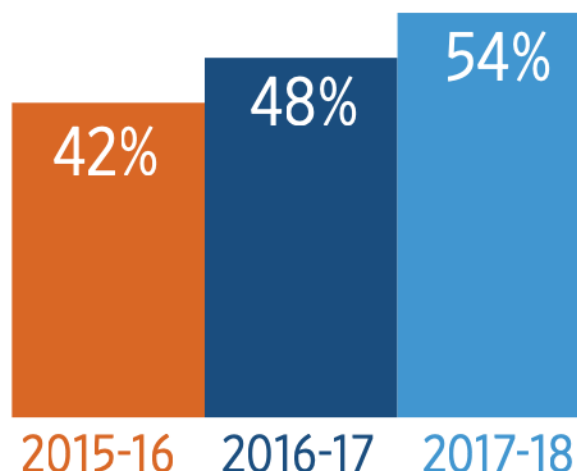
services is important to capture. Data on partnerships with external agencies were collected for 48 TPSID programs in 2017–18 by the TPSID National Coordinating Center. TPSIDs that partnered with VR were asked to indicate if the provision of Pre-ETS was part of their collaboration with VR agencies.

KEY FINDINGS

Of the 48 TPSID respondents, 26 programs (54%) indicated they partnered with VR to provide Pre-ETS during the 2017–2018 academic year. Program staffers were asked if they collaborate with VR to provide social and workplace skills development, work-based learning experiences, and self-advocacy instruction. Out of these 26 programs, 21 (81%) provided training on social and workplace skills development, 21 (81%) provided work-based learning experiences, and 20 (77%) provided self-advocacy instruction. Data were not collected on job exploration counseling or counseling on enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs.

The percentage of TPSIDs that partnered with VR to provide Pre-ETS has increased every year between 2015 and 2018. In the third year of TPSID funding (2017–2018), for the first time, a majority of TPSID programs (54%) partnered with a VR agency to provide Pre-ETS (see Figure).

FIGURE. PERCENTAGE OF TPSIDS THAT PARTNERED WITH VR TO PROVIDE PRE-ETS



IMPLICATIONS

IHEs implementing TPSID grants are increasingly partnering with VR to provide Pre-ETS to eligible college students with intellectual disability. The provision of these services may lead to improved outcomes for students seeking to gain the skills needed for competitive integrated employment. As these collaborative efforts between VR and IHEs grow and evolve, continued attention should be paid to documenting these service structures, as well as to the employment outcomes of college students with intellectual disability who receive Pre-ETS.

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Looking for additional information on Pre-ETS?

Think College hosted a webinar called **Pre-Employment Transition Services in Inclusive Higher Education Settings**, which includes links to numerous helpful resources.

All materials can be found here: <https://thinkcollege.net/resource/employment-supports/pre-employment-transition-services-in-inclusive-higher-education>

FAST FACTS, Issue No. 20, 2019

FAST FACTS is a publication of Think College, a project of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston, funded by a grant from the Office of Postsecondary Education (Grant No. P407B100002). The opinions contained in this document are those of the grantee and do not necessarily reflect those of the funder.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Grigal, M., Smith, F., & Glavey-Labedz, E. (2019). *Provision of Pre-Employment Transition Services in TPSID Programs*. Think College Fast Facts, Issue No. 20. Boston, MA: University of Massachusetts Boston, Institute for Community Inclusion.

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