

Essential Information for EVERY Parent of a Special Needs Child

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Things EVERY Parents Should Know About!



01

Medicaid Waivers

Provides long-term services and support for people with disabilities or special health care needs

02

Central Counties Services

Provides interventions or supports are expected to help the person participate better in community activities.

03

Texas Workforce Commission

Prepare student for life after high school, gain work experience or help prepare students with educational opportunities for degrees or certifications.

04

Meaningful Activities

Organizations to create a positive day for your son or daughter after graduation





What are Medicaid Waivers?

Texas Medicaid waivers are a gateway to getting services for your child.

Many parents say they wish they had signed up for the waiver interest lists when their child was born or first diagnosed. Some of the interest lists have more than a **20**-year wait time.



Texas Medicaid Waivers

- [Community Living Assistance and Support Services \(CLASS\)](#)
- [Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities \(DBMD\)](#)
- [Medically Dependent Children Program \(MDCP\)](#)
 - If you are interested in CLASS, DBMD & MDCP call 1-877-438-5658 to speak to a trained professional.
- [STAR+PLUS Home and Community-based Services \(HCBS\)](#)
 - If you are interested in STAR+PLUS HCBS (SPW), call 1-877-782-6440. If you have a speech impairment or are hard of hearing, call 7-1-1 or 1-800-735-2989.
- [Youth Empowerment Services \(YES\)](#) - (844) 815-6221
- [Texas Home Living \(TxHmL\)](#)
- [Home and Community-based Services \(HCS\)](#)
 - If you are interested in TxHmL or HCS call 254-899-3000 to speak to a trained professional to be placed on these waivers.





What is Central Counties Services?

Central Counties Services dedicate themselves to enabling each individual with intellectual disability to participate in the normal life of the community to the fullest extent of his/her potential and personal desires.

Central Counties Services provides the following services:

- Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD)
- Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)
- Behavioral Health (Adults and Children)



Central Counties Services Interventions & Supports

General Revenue Services

- Individualized Skills and Socialization (ISS) Facility
- Respite
- Behavioral Supports
- Nursing Services
- Employment Services
 - Vocational Training
 - Employment Assistance
 - Supported Employment

- Determination of Intellectual Disability (DID)
- Continuity of Services
- Assistance with Placement
- Service Coordination
- Crisis Services
- [PASRR Services](#) (Nursing Facility)
- [Community First Choice](#) (MCO Medicaid Program)
- Oversee TxHml and HCS Waivers



Intake/Access/Referral - Call 254-899-3000 and ask for Intake for the waiting lists for HCS, TxHmL, and GR Services



What are VR Services?

VR services, or Vocational Rehabilitation services, are programs that help young adults ages 14-22 with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment.

While a student is in school VR services with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) students are engaged in Pre-ETS to enhance job readiness, present opportunities for skill development, and increase the employment and post-secondary education success.

WHAT Are Pre-ETS?



FIVE PRE-ETS SERVICES

Pre-Employment Transition Services

- 1 CAREER EXPLORATION COUNSELING**


Assist students in becoming aware of their own interests and abilities; and career opportunities in their local area through exposure that increases their motivation in preparing to work.

 - * Examples: Texas OnCourse Tool; O'Net tool; Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI); Jobs Yall website; Person-Centered Employment Planning
- 2 WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES**


Take place in a work environment setting using an educational instructional design to assist students with disabilities in obtaining knowledge and skills for future job opportunities.

 - * Examples: Informational Interviews, Job Shadowing, Internships, Work-based Tours/Internships.
- 3 SELF-ADVOCACY INSTRUCTION**


Direct students with disabilities in identifying their interests and desires and effectively communicating their wants, needs, and desires in school, at social/community events, or on the job. It teaches students about their rights, responsibilities, how to request accommodations or services, and supports transition planning.

 - * Examples: Self Advocacy Curriculum, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).
- 4 COUNSELING ON POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES**


Provides information on the variety of options available to students after graduation including colleges, universities, and training opportunities. This service may take place in a group setting and/or per individual.

 - * Examples: Assist students in completing federal aid paperwork, budgeting for college classes, explore college programs.
- 5 WORKPLACE READINESS TRAINING**


Offers students with disabilities an opportunity to obtain skills and behaviors that can be used in any job. Job readiness skills may include soft skills, employability skills, and job preparation skills.

 - * Examples: Job club, mock interviews, transportation training, resume writing, support in completing job applications.





CAREER EXPLORATION COUNSELING

O*Net Online [Interest Profiler](#) has 60 questions about work activities to help you decide what kinds of careers you might want to explore by matching careers to your interests.



Realistic

Artistic

Enterprising

Investigative

Social

Conventional

Career One Stop:

- [Career One Stop Interests Assessment](#) – 30 quick questions that matches your interests to careers.
- [Career One Stop “Skills Matcher”](#) – This quiz asks what you like to do and what you are good at and matches you with careers.
- [Career One Stop “Work Values Matcher”](#) – This quiz determines your beliefs about what is important to you.





WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Summer Earn & Learn (SEAL) is a statewide initiative to offer students with disabilities, aged 16-22, work readiness training and paid work experience.
- “Builds the Resume” by providing students with disabilities critical hands-on, real world experience and transferable skill development.



01

Students receive work readiness training and connect with local employers where they have the opportunity to do hands-on work for five weeks or more.

02

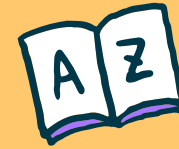
The students learn about the employer’s industry and develop skills and work experience that will prepare them for successful transitions to postsecondary education and employment.

03

Upon completion of the program, some students are presented with the opportunity to become employed.



INSTRUCTION IN SELF-ADVOCACY



1

Self-advocacy is the ability to effectively communicate, convey, negotiate, or assert your own interests and/or desires



Learn how to describe your disability, disability needs, skills, and abilities.

2

Identify how and when you need to disclose personal information to receive accommodations.

3

Learn about accommodations and identify accommodations that you might need.

4

Learn about the laws as you leave high school and enter the adult world.

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

VS.

Americans with Disabilities Act

5

COUNSELING ON POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES



BENEFITS TO THE STUDENTS



Gain information about the variety of training options after high school in preparation for work

Be supported to complete admission paperwork

Know where to go (Disability Services) for additional help on campus and be more comfortable in asking for help when needed

Be supported to identify postsecondary education institution based on career choice

Be better prepared and know what to expect before the first day of college classes



EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES FOR POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS



- Provide information on community colleges, universities, and trade/technical schools base on student degree/career choice.
- Provide information on college applications, admission, and college entrance exams
- Share information with student on preparation and accommodations for college entrance exams (e.g. Texas Success Initiative (TSI), SAT, ACT).
- Discuss differences between accommodations services in K12 and accommodations services at the higher educational level.
- Participation in “College Days” on local university/college campuses.
- Assist students and families in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Work with students on how to research financial aid opportunities such as Pell grants, scholarships, Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts, Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS) plans.
- Provide students with information on college resources for additional support such as Disability Services.
- Explore Job Corps options and plan visits to local campuses.
- Explore military options.



JOB READINESS TRAINING

DEVELOP SOCIAL SKILLS



- A distinction between “hard skills” and “soft skills”
 - ❖ Hard skill – measurable, technical proficiency
 - ❖ Soft skill – ability to work well with others



- Vocational Adjustment Training(VAT) includes structured classes that teaches daily workplace routine and addresses individual vocational impediments. VAT helps develop competencies and essential skills necessary to function successfully on the job.
- There are 9 different curriculums offered in VAT covering topics such as soft skill development, job search, money management, and disability disclosure.



Who Do I Contact For VR Services?



01

Janine Bunke - District Wide

Office: 254-742-4420

Cell: 254-718-1285

Email: janine.bunke@twc.texas.gov

02

Misty Greentree - New Tech (Only) Counselor

Office: 254-200-2045

Cell: 254-291-0333

Email: misty.greentree@twc.texas.gov

03

Connie Truesdale Blindness & Visual Impaired Counselor

Office: 254-742-4422

Cell: 254-217-9224

Email: connie.truesdale@twc.texas.gov






Are there recreation activities in the community?

Yes, there are several recreation activities in the community that offer recreation and leisure opportunities for children and adults with disabilities.

Recreation activities that can provide students with opportunities for fun, exercise, and skill development. Younger students can begin to explore interests now that can become lifelong adult leisure and recreation activities

Fun & Socializing Activities

Special Olympics

 [Belton Champions](#)
[SOTX ARC Buccaneers](#)

 [ARC of Bell County](#)
[Fun Night](#)

[FC Belton](#)
[Soccer](#)

18+

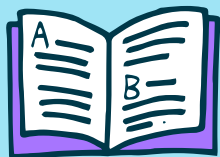
 [UMHB Best Buddies](#)
[Grownups](#)

Centex Champs

[Special Needs Baseball](#)
[& Softball](#)

[Sammons](#)
[Community Center](#)





**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
CONTACT ME WITH
ANY ADDITIONAL
QUESTIONS ABOUT
TRANSITION
PLANNING**

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