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Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

Secondary Transition Parent Sessions

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September 7, 2021

Overview of OVR

Review of services and background information

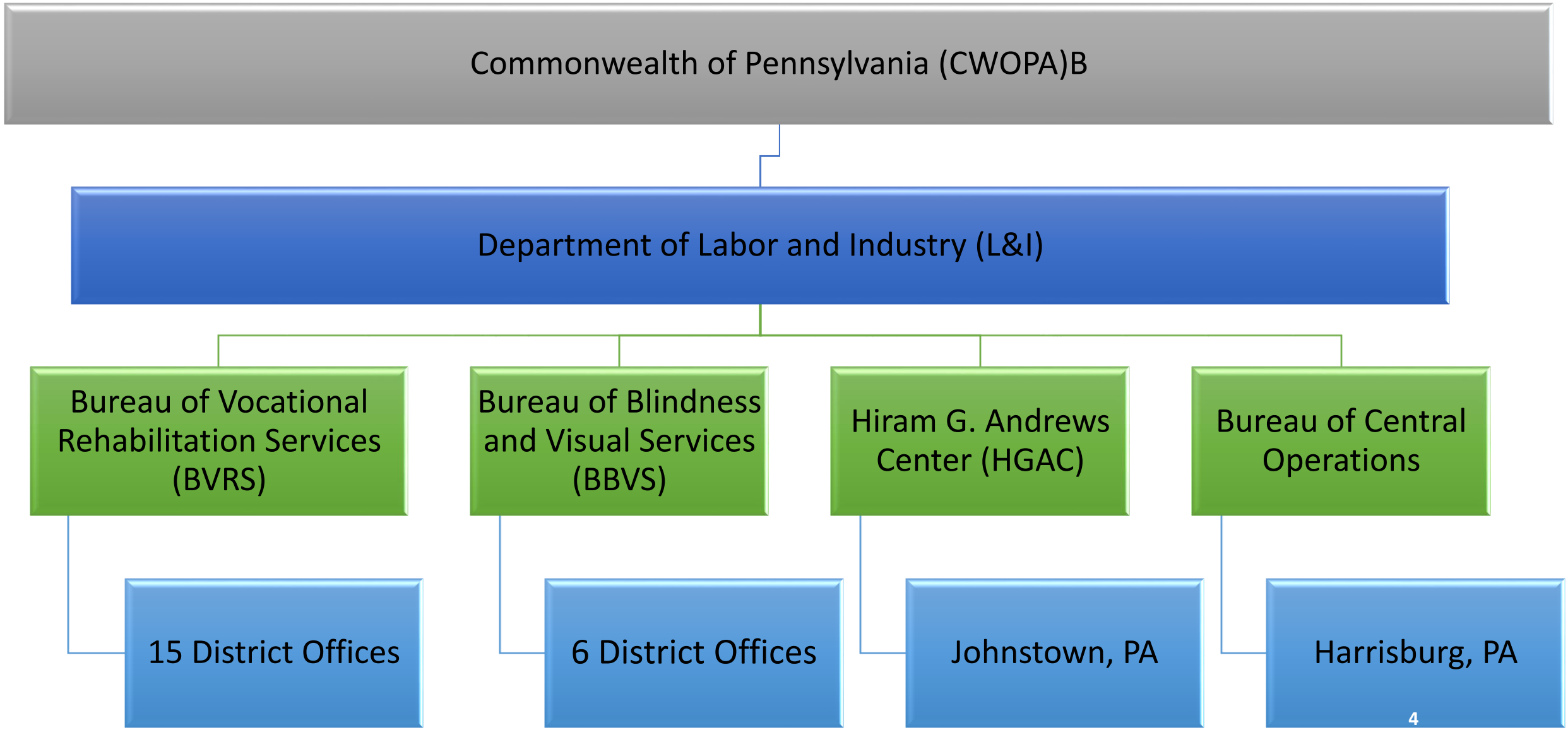
OVR's Mission

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To assist Pennsylvanians with **disabilities** to secure and maintain **employment** and independence.

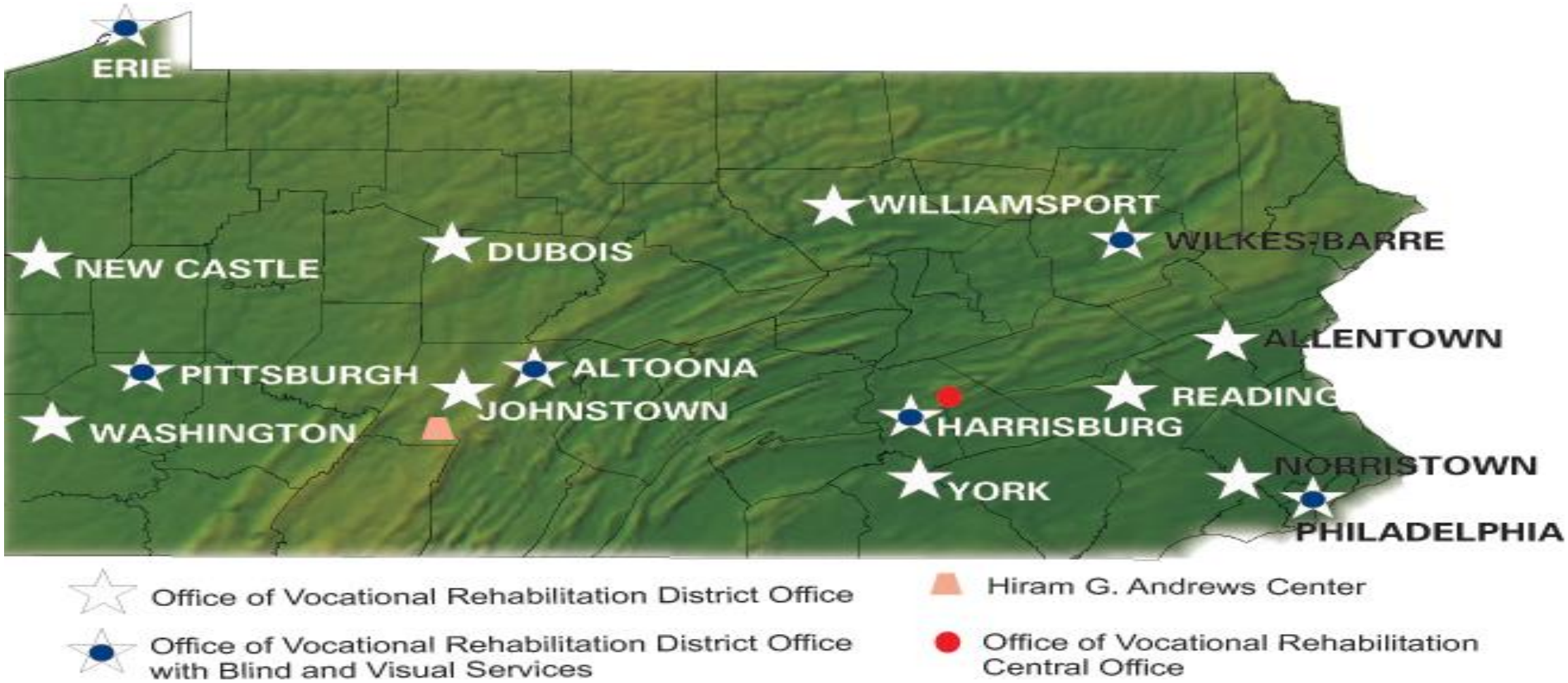
Agency Structure

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OVR District Offices (Map)

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OVR Services

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Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Early Reach Initiative
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Vocational Evaluation
- Counseling and Guidance
- Transition Services
- Restoration Services
- Training Services
- Vehicle/Home Modification
- Business Services

Blindness and Visual Services

- Blindness Skills Training
- Instruction: Mobility
- Instruction: Daily Living
- Independent Living Skills
- Specialized Children's Services
- Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

BVRS Rehabilitation Team

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- Early Reach Coordinator
- Vocational Rehabilitation(VR) Supervisor
- VR Counselor
- Business Services Counselors
- Business Services Representatives (Employment Facilitator)



BBVS Rehabilitation Team

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- Vocational Rehabilitation(VR) Supervisor
- VR Counselor
- Social Worker
- Orientation and Mobility Specialist
- Vision Rehabilitation Therapist



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Bureau of Special Education & OVR Memorandum of Understanding

Overview of the MOU and handouts

Purpose of the MOU

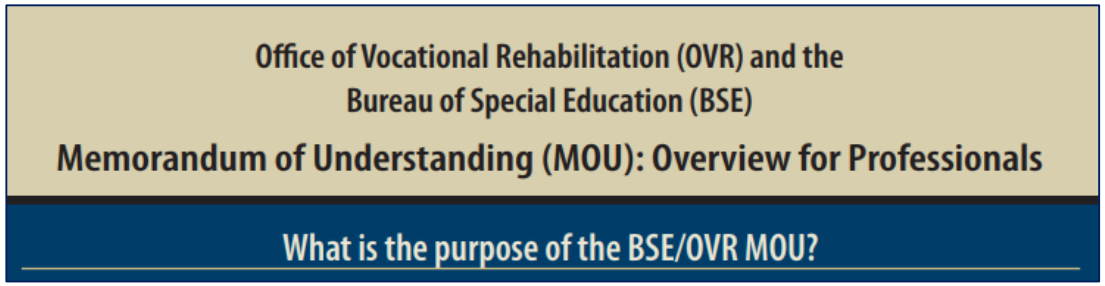
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- OVR and BSE support the transition of students with disabilities from high school to post-school employment-related activities and competitive, integrated employment
- OVR and BSE provide informational training and resources for youth and families
- OVR and BSE roles and responsibilities are clearly defined
- A nonbinding agreement that sets forth a cooperative arrangement between the agencies

OVR Responsibilities

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- Identify a single point of contact for each LEA and other schools
- Directs LEA and OVR to work together to determine which OVR Pre-ETS are needed by a student on an individual basis
- Outlines expectations for VR staff including:
  - Collaboration in community events
  - Attendance and consultation for development of IEPs for students with disabilities
  - Outreach to employers to promote work based learning experiences
- Reinforces OVR's responsibility to determine eligibility and develop Individual Plans for Employment (IPEs)



Education Responsibilities

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- LEAs will:
  - continue to provide IDEA transition services
  - share OVR information with students and families/caregivers
  - collaborate with OVR for community transition events
  - participate in the referral process for Pre-ETS
  - send timely invitations to OVR counselors for participation in IEP meetings
  - not contract with entities providing subminimum wage (SMW)
  - understand that OVR has federal guidelines for establishing IPEs, and they will help families navigate these guidelines
- LEA and OVR work together to determine which OVR Pre-ETS are needed on an individual basis

Youth & Family Flyer

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Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Bureau of Special Education (BSE)

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

What is secondary transition?

For high school age students with disabilities:

- a bridge between a school program and the opportunities of adult life;
- involves partnerships between student, family, school and the community;
- builds on strengths, interests and preferences; and addresses needs; and
- identifies services and supports needed to reach post-secondary goals of education/training, employment and community engagement



When does this occur?

14 Years of Age

Transition services must be addressed in the IEP of the student in the year in which the student turns 14 years of age and then annually each year after, or when requested by the student/family.

The IEP team does not have to wait until the student's approaching 14th birthday year to consider the student's transition needs.



MOU Webinars

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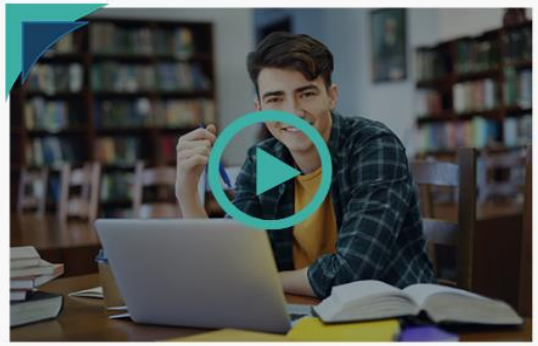
PA SECONDARY TRANSITION

HOME | ABOUT US | PRACTICES | AUDIENCE | WHAT'S HAPPENING | RESOURCES | CONTACT US

UNDERSTANDING THE MEMORANDUM: OVR AND BSE WORKING TOGETHER AS ONE

This series will overview the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement between the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Bureau of Special Education (BSE) pertaining to the provision of secondary transition services for students with disabilities. Throughout the series, participants will be introduced to tools for collaboration between OVR, BSE, Local Education Agencies (LEAs), youth, and families.

Download Handouts



Webinar 3 - Strategies for Aligning Efforts

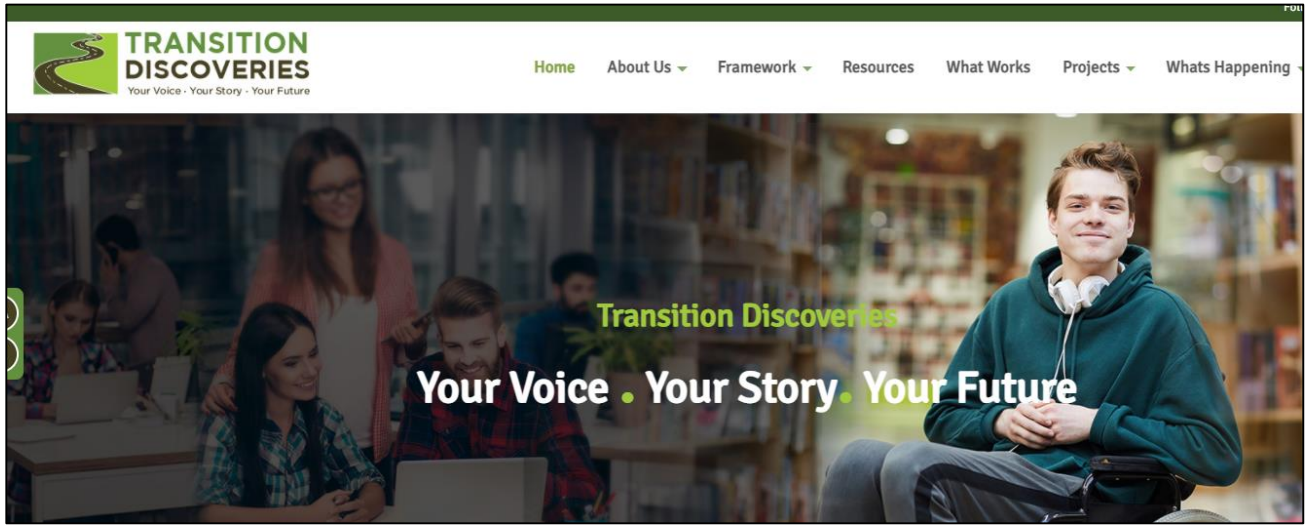


Webinar 1 - Understanding the MOU

TOP

Helpful Websites

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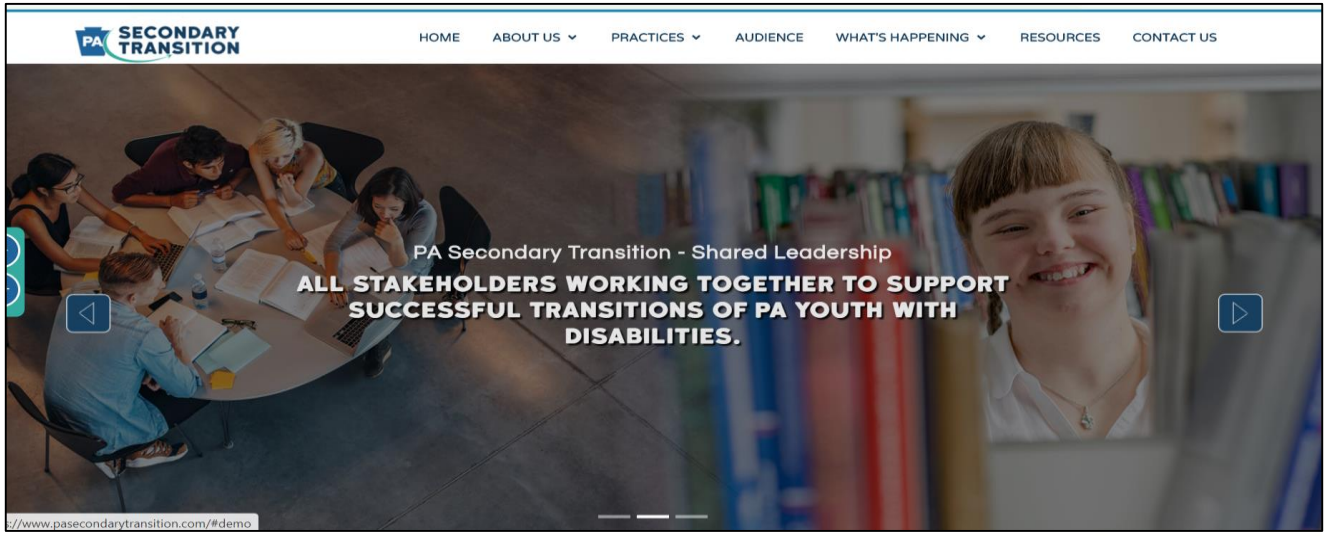


Transition Discoveries website for Youth and Families:

https://www.transitiondiscoveries.org/

PA Secondary Transition website for Professionals:

https://www.pasecondarytransition.com/



Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Overview of Services

Language Change

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Pre-Employment Transition Services

Before:

PETS

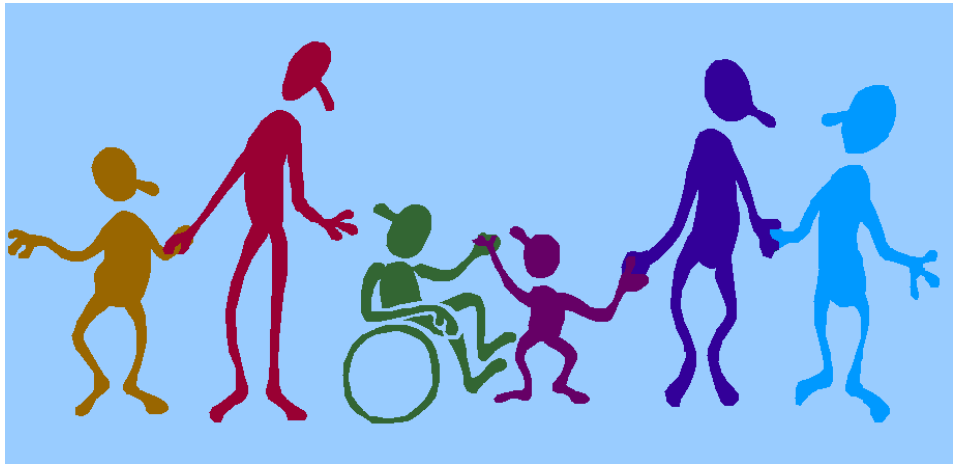
Now:

Pre-ETS

Pre-ETS Definition

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Pre-ETS help students with disabilities learn about themselves, understand work requirements, practice work skills, choose a career, and explore training options.



Who Can Receive Pre-ETS?

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Pre-ETS are for <u>students</u>:

- Between the ages of 14-21
- Enrolled in secondary or post-secondary education
- Have an IEP, 504 Plan, or identify themselves as a student with a disability

Eligible vs. Potentially Eligible

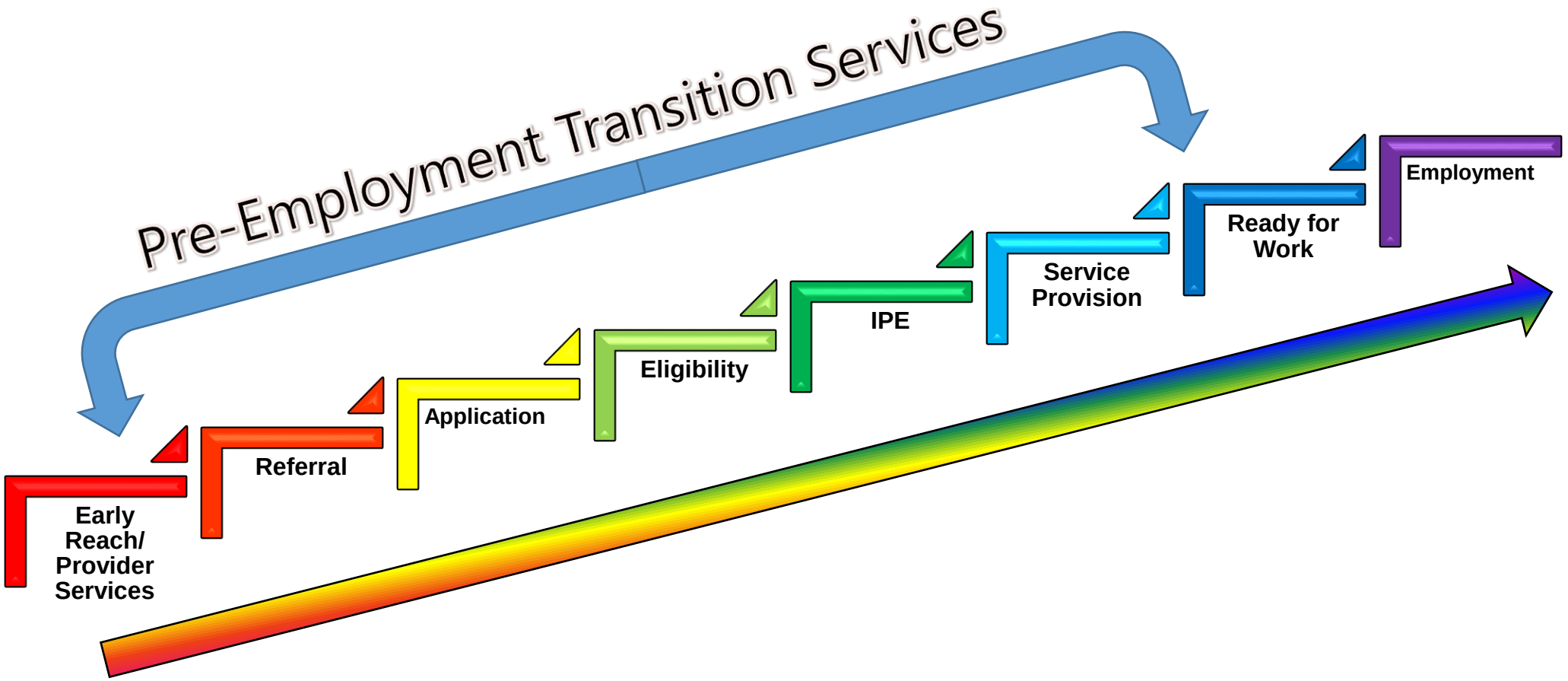
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Potentially Eligible: Student with a disability who wants to work and has barriers to employment, but has not yet submitted an OVR application for individualized case services and gone through the eligibility process.

Eligible: Student with a disability who has submitted an OVR application for individualized case services, has been assigned a counselor (VRC), and has gone through the eligibility process and been deemed eligible by their OVR counselor.

The OVR Process

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Required Pre-ETS

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What are Pre-Employment Transition Services?

Self-Advocacy Instruction

Counseling On Postsecondary Options

Job Exploration Counseling

Work Based Learning

Workplace Readiness Training

*Additionally, OVR can attend IEP Meetings and Outreach Events!

Self-Advocacy Instruction

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Self-Advocacy Instruction helps a student with a disability build skills to solve problems and communicate needs and interests.

Topics may include:

Disability Awareness/Disclosure
Relationships and Boundaries
Decision Making
Setting Goals
Self-Care and Wellness
Self-Advocacy/Determination
Accommodations and/or Assistive Technology
Student-Led IEP and Transition

Counseling on Postsecondary Options

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Counseling on Postsecondary Options helps a student with a disability decide if college or training after high school is the best choice.

Topics may include:

Postsecondary Training Options
Financial Aid and/or FASFA
Academic Accommodations
Learning Preferences
Study Skills
Post-Secondary Education Resources
Entitlement versus Eligibility
Post-Secondary Education Events
Applications

Job Exploration Counseling

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Job Exploration Counseling helps a student with a disability learn about jobs and pick a career.

Topics may include:

Career Overviews and Pathways
In-Demand Careers
Vocational Interest Inventories
Non-Traditional Employment
Labor Market Information
Employment Requirements
Job Fairs
Information Interviews
Career Speakers

Workplace Readiness Training

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Workplace Readiness Training teaches a student with a disability how to get and keep a job.

Topics may include:

Job Applications and Interview Practice
Soft Skills
Independent Living Skills
Financial Literacy
Photo ID and Records Acquisition
Safety (Including Internet Usage)
Navigating Social Services
Community Resources
Group Travel Training

Work-Based Learning

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Work-Based Learning uses community workplaces to provide a student with a disability the knowledge and skills that will help connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities.

Examples include:

Employer Mock Interviews
Community Work Instruction
Job shadowing
Paid work experiences

Early Reach Initiative

Reach out and seize the pre-employment transition opportunities!

#thefutureisnow

EARLY REACH

Early Reach Services

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What services do Early Reach Coordinators provide?

- Group Pre-Employment Transition Services
- IEP Meeting Attendance
- Family Consultations
- School and Community Collaborative Events
- Trainings for Parents, Families, and Professionals

Early Reach Video

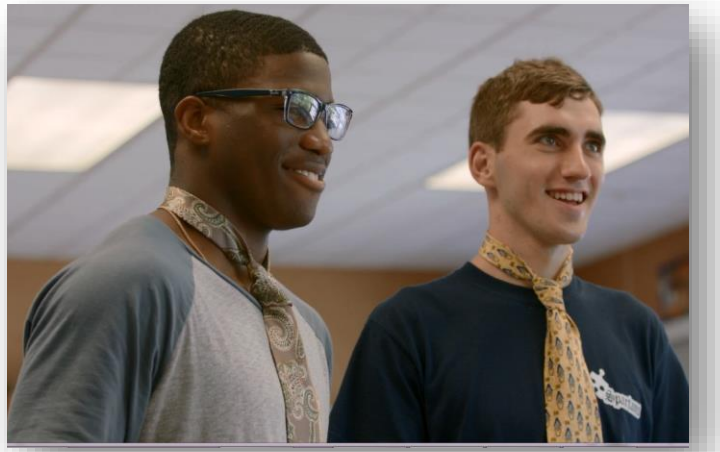
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Learn more about Early Reach!

https://youtu.be/nSZHpC8rFQk







Questions?

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Contact Information

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