Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Roadmap

The purpose of this tool is to introduce OVR and ODP services and indicate when to invite them into your employment journey.

OVR supports people with disabilities in employment.

OVR BBVS Children's Services

Transition planning must begin at age 14 and include post-secondary education and training, employment, and independent living goals.

Early High School

ODP offers services and supports to people with an intellectual disability or autism.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Workplace Readiness Training

Self-Advocacy Instruction

Job Exploration Counseling

Counseling on Post-Secondary Options

Work-Based Learning

Obtain Diploma

The ODP Supports Coordinator collaborates with the school and OVR.

Late High School

Open a case with OVR to get individualized services.

Post-Secondary Education That Leads to Employment

Revisit OVR, if needed.

Welcome to Successful Competitive Integrated Employment

ODP Funded Employment Services

K-12 Education

Office of Developmental Programs (ODP)

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

PA SECONDARY TRANSITION

Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Roadmap

The Roadmap illustrates how the Education, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) systems can work together to ensure the best outcomes for students.

The secondary transition process is divided into three broad stages: Early High School, Late High School, and After High School. In practice, most attention is given to secondary transition during late high school and shortly after.

Each system is represented by a single color, as indicated by the map legend in the lower right-hand corner. The colors on the road represent the stages in the secondary transition process in which a student may be able to access that system. An individual can access the "roads" or agencies at different points as needed.

Often, the route to competitive integrated employment is not a direct route and is full of twists and turns. Accessing different agencies along the away can help to remove roadblocks and find new roads on the path to employment. The beginning of the secondary transition process begins at age 14, or earlier if determined appropriate by the student's team, and is represented on the Roadmap as a bridge. Because a student may receive Special Education services well before high school, this road runs prior to the bridge. A student may also be involved with ODP or OVR's Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services at an earlier age and is represented by thin roads prior to the bridge.

When crossing the bridge, three billboards are present that introduce each agency. The education billboard reads, "Transition planning must begin at age 14 and include post-secondary education and training, employment, and independent living goals." The OVR billboard indicates that OVR supports people with disabilities in employment. The ODP billboard notes, "ODP offers services and supports to people with an intellectual disability or autism."

Continuing down the road, the next stop could be OVR's introductory Pre-Employment Transition Services, also called Pre-ETS. These services are available to help students explore options and develop work skills during the early high school stage. There are 5 types of Pre-ETS which are represented on the Roadmap as roundabouts since students may need none, some, or all these services.

If an individual needs more individualized or intensive services, they may open an individualized case with OVR. This typically begins two years prior to graduation, overlapping with Special Education services in the late high school stage, though it can happen earlier based on need. Not all students will choose to apply for individualized OVR services.

Moving closer to graduation, an ODP Supports Coordinator can collaborate with the school and OVR to ensure a student's needs are being met. ODP can offer services that support individuals to find and maintain competitive integrated employment.

Special Education services end when a student obtains their diploma, while OVR and ODP services can continue into adulthood. ODP and OVR services may include funding for post-secondary education or training, supported employment, or job placement services.

Reaching the Successful Competitive Integrated Employment sign, notice that an individual's OVR case is typically closed once employment is obtained and stabilized, whereas ODP may offer ongoing services that support long-term success as the road continues into the future. However, a person may revisit OVR as many times as needed to obtain and maintain their employment goals, represented by the dashed line on the map.

These systems are united by a common goal – employment and independence for all individuals that they serve. When educators and agencies work collaboratively to provide coordinated and complementary services and supports, they help create a bridge for students with disabilities from school to post-school success.