BRIEF OVERVIEW OF PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

This project is wholly funded with Federal funding.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice) TexasWorkforce.org
WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA)

- Signed into law by President Obama on July 22, 2014.

- Replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and amends:
  - the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act,
  - the Wagner-Peyser Act, and
  - the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1973 as amended.

- The final certifying federal regulations for WIOA were not available for state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies until August 2016.
WIOA MADE MAJOR CHANGES TO VR

- Requires the six core programs, including the State Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, to submit a unified state plan.

- Establishes six primary indicators of performance, which replace the VR Standards and Indicators as the primary means of measuring program performance.

- Includes more than 100 changes to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. Most were effective upon signature by the President in 2014.
WIOA KEY CHANGES AFFECTING VR TRANSITION PROGRAMS

- Defines a Student With A Disability
- Increases services to these Students with Disabilities; Defines and Reserves funding for Pre-employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
- Requires that states reserve and expend 15% of their federal funds on Pre-ETS, which are categorized as Required, Coordinated, and Authorized.
A student with a disability is:

- 14–22 years of age

- Eligible for and receiving special education or related services under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or is an individual with a disability for purposes of §504 of the Rehabilitation Act; and

- In an educational program, including secondary education; nontraditional or alternative secondary education programs, including home schooling; postsecondary education programs; or other recognized educational programs, such as those offered through the juvenile justice system.
To be eligible to receive Pre-ETS, students must be eligible or *potentially eligible* for VR services.

- **Potentially eligible:** students do not have to apply for VR services to receive Pre-ETS. Only disability verification and a few data elements are required.

- **Potentially eligible:** students can only receive Pre-ETS and not the full array of VR services.

- If a student applies for services and is determined ineligible, they can no longer receive services, including Pre-ETS.
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES: REQUIRED

- **Career Exploration Counseling** (counseling and guidance around career paths, exploring labor market information, interest inventories)
- **Work-Based Learning** (paid work experiences, informational interviews, volunteer work, job shadowing)
- **Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities** (exploring options, applying for financial aid, accessing accommodations, expectations of college-level courses)
- **Workplace Readiness Training** (soft skills, social, and independent living skills training)
- **Self-Advocacy Instruction** (fostering self determination, advocating for needs/accommodations, peer mentoring)
Coordinated Pre-ETS Activities include:

- Attending individualized education program meetings for students with disabilities, when invited;

- Working with the local workforce development boards, one-stop centers, and employers to develop work opportunities for students with disabilities, including internships, summer employment and other employment opportunities available throughout the school year, and apprenticeships;

- Work with schools to coordinate and ensure the provision of pre-employment transition services; and

- When invited, attend person-centered planning meetings for individuals receiving services under Medicaid
FOR QUESTIONS ON PRE-ETS

Pre-ETS Mailbox:
vr.pre-ets@twc.state.tx.us
Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services
101 East 15th Street
Austin, Texas 78778-0001
800-628-5115

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The Texas Workforce Commission accepts calls made through any relay service provider.
For purposes of the VR program, the Federal VR grant paid 78.7 percent of the total costs of the program. In Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2019, the VR agency received $221,936,258 in Federal VR funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid 21.3 percent of the total costs ($60,066,611) under the VR program.

For purposes of the Supported Employment program, Federal funds paid 90 percent of the total costs. In FFY 2019, the VR agency received $1,446,266 in Federal Supported Employment funds. State appropriated funds paid 10 percent ($80,348) of the total costs under the Supported Employment program.

For purposes of the Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB) program, Federal funds paid 90 percent of the total costs incurred under the program. In FFY 2019, the agency received $2,159,283 in Federal grant funds for this program. Funds appropriated by the State paid 10 percent ($239,920) of the total costs incurred under the OIB program.