

Addressing Family and Professional's Obstacles in Pre-Employment Transition Services: Providers' Perceptions

Resources List




What is this resource list, and where did it come from?






To understand the needs of providing Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) in Texas and potential solutions, with the support of The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Center on Disability & Development (CDD), we conducted research with 24 in-person focus group sessions across six regions in Texas (i.e., Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Houston, Lubbock, Tyler), involving 162 transition educators and vocational rehabilitation (VR) counselors.





This presentation and resource list specifically focus on our findings related to family-professional collaboration. From our research, we identified four key areas of need in family-professional collaboration when providing Pre-ETS: *The Need to Support Families Directly*, *The Need to Promote Family-Professional Communication*, *The Need to Encourage Community Support*, and *The Need for Policy Support*. Within each of these areas, we pinpointed specific needs with definitions. The resource list includes national or local resources to address each need, with the goal of fostering family-professional collaborations. Some of the resource contents outside of the TWC and CDD do not necessarily represent the TWC or CDD, and you should not assume endorsement by them.






How should I cite this resource list if I want to use it?





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The Need to Support Family Directly			
Suggested Solutions with Definitions	Suggested Resources	Description for the Resources	QR codes
<p>Knowledge of Overall Pre-ETS services and qualifications</p> <p><i>Transition educators and VR counselors have identified the need to enhance families' overall transition-related knowledge.</i></p>	Texas SPED Support	<p>Texas SPED Support offers a resource library with informative training on various topics to help families gain knowledge about transitions.</p> <p>https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/resource-library?field_audience_taxonomy[24]=24</p>	
	SPEDTx	<p>SPEDTx, supported by TEA, is a resource in Texas designed to inform and assist parents, teachers, and those dedicated to children with disabilities. It offers resources and interactive tools to enhance family understanding of disabilities and special education processes, aiming to strengthen school-family partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 1-855-773-3839 • Email: inquire@spedtex.org • Live chat: www.spedtex.org. 	
	RAISE: Laws, Policies, Rights & Regulations Resources	<p>Relevant information about laws related to disability services.</p> <p>https://www.raisecenter.org/partner-pti-youth-family-resources/laws-policies-rights-regulations-resources/</p>	





	<p>RAISE: Common Transition Acronyms</p>	<p>A list of common acronyms used in transition with their meanings. This resource can be helpful for new transition specialists and/or can be shared with parents. https://www.raisecenter.org/transition-resources-database/#gsc.tab=0</p>	
	<p>Pre-ETS Transition Services Flow Chart - Pg.10</p>	<p>Page 10 provides a visual flowchart on the elements included in the transition components of the IEP. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605980.pdf</p>	
<p>Knowledge of Social Security Benefits</p> <p><i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need for families to learn more about Social Security Income (SSI) and proposed potential solutions.</i></p>	<p>Find Help - Ticket to Work - Social Security</p>	<p>Individuals can also contact a representative at SSA’s Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 (voice) or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY). https://www.ssa.gov/</p>	
	<p>FAQ about SSI</p>	<p>Information that can be helpful to share with parents about SSI and its benefits in a flyer version. https://texascasa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/TexasCASA_SSI_FAQ-V4.pdf</p>	
	<p>Disability Benefits Counseling Services</p>	<p>The National Disability Institute offers free disability benefits counseling and Benefits Planning Query services to eligible families and concerned providers https://www.nationaldisabilityinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/disability-benefits-counseling-ndi-tool.pdf</p>	





	<p>Applying for Disability Benefits or Supplemental Security Income for Children with Disabilities</p>	<p>This webpage resource also shares frequently asked questions about SSI with embedded hyperlinks to other websites that may be useful to share with families such as the "SSI eligibility screener." https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/ssi-benefits-for-children-with-disabilities</p>	
	<p>"What You Need to Know About Earning Money and Supplemental Security Income (SSI)"</p>	<p>This flyer provides information that can be useful to share with students interested in employment about Social Security work incentives to assist beneficiaries with increasing their income https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-121.pdf</p>	
<p>Knowledge of Financial Requirements <i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need for families to gain a better understanding of the financial requirements of Vocational Services and Schools when providing services.</i></p>	<p>Financial Responsibilities</p>	<p>Page 22 and 23 provide information on the financial Obligations of VR and Schools, as well as VR Agencies and Local Education Agencies. This information can be helpful when clarifying financial roles and discussing https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED605980.pdf</p>	
	<p>NTACT:C</p>	<p>A Side-by-Side View: Transition Services. Definitions between Pre-Employment Transition Services, VR Transition Services, and Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (2004). https://transitionta.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/comparison-side-by-side-transition-services.pdf</p>	


<p>Emotions and Feelings Support</p> <p><i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified how the emotions and feelings of families during their children's transition may impact their children's access to Pre-ETS (e.g., anxiety, fear about their youth attending Pre-ETS programs).</i></p> <p><i>Some local mental health support resources have been identified here to help practitioners better understand parental mental health and provide additional resources for families who may need them.</i></p>	<p>Accepting, Grieving, and Adapting to Life</p>	<p>A helpful resource to share with parents that may need extra support processing their child's disability.</p> <p>https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/family-support/accepting-grieving-and-adapting-to-life</p>	
	<p>Parents Connect</p>	<p>A resource to share with parents to find local support groups.</p> <p>https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/family-support/connecting-with-other-parents-of-children-with-disabilities</p>	
	<p>Texas Family to Family</p>	<p>They offer multiple training events where families and individuals with disabilities can network and support each other.</p> <p>https://f2fn.org/</p>	
	<p>Texas Parent to Parent</p>	<p>They provide a presentation on the topic of 'The Stages of Grief and Adaptation' and describe the grieving process for families of children with disabilities.</p> <p>https://www.txp2p.org/Media/files/2020-09-08-Patty-G-Grief-and-Stages-of-Adaption.pdf</p>	
	<p>Texas SPED Support</p>	<p>Their transition page offers videos to assist parents of students with significant disabilities in overcoming transition-related fears.</p> <p>https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/topics/transition?sort_by=featured</p>	







	Attending in Counselling	This resource provides some guidance on a simple counseling skill to sensitively respond to parents who share vulnerable information like emotional difficulties. https://counsellingtutor.com/basic-counselling-skills/the-meaning-of-attending/	
	RAISE: Challenges for Transition Age Youth and Their Families	This presentation resource can be shared to parents so that they can better prepare for the changes ahead and the resources available for the transitions. https://www.raisecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/TAY-RAISE-8-23-PPT.pdf	
	Dealing with Ourselves while our Children Grow up!	Another helpful story in a pdf format of a parent of a child with disability's point of view. https://www.txp2p.org/Media/Transition/dealingwithtransitionemotions.pdf	
The Need to Promote Family-professional Collaboration			
Suggested Solutions with Definitions	Suggested Resources	Description for the Resources	QR codes
Effective Path to reach to the families (i.e., Engagement) <i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need to learn more about how to engage families.</i>	Family Engagement Group Discussion Questions	Pages 29-38 of this presentation provides valuable questions to discuss in a group format with other transition specialists in order to learn about different perspectives on how to collaborate with families. https://transitionta.org/wp-content/uploads/docs/slides_interagency-collaboration_putting-the-pieces-together-local-capacity-building.pdf	


	NTACT:C Family Engagement Trainings	This webpage provides key training resources for effective strategies for meaningful engagement with families of transition-aged students. https://transitionta.org/topics/family-engagement/	
	Strategies for Equitable Family Engagement	Not transition related, but can still be very helpful. This resource provides an overview of evidence-based strategies that schools and districts may use to promote equitable family engagement practices. https://oese.ed.gov/files/2020/10/equitable_family_eng_ag_508.pdf	
	Supporting Families to Focus on Student Self-Determination	This resource is specific to helping parents understand the importance of self-determination and engage with our efforts to increase those skills in students. https://www.raisecenter.org/supporting-families-to-focus-on-student-self-determination/	
	How to Engage Youth and Families Webinar	This unconventional approach to family engagement provides best practices of social media engagement and creating social media content that will captivate and activate youth and families. https://www.raisecenter.org/creating-content-how-to-engage-youth-and-families-webinar/	
Translation and Interpretation Services <i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified</i>	Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services	VR Staff have access to a Language Line and American Sign Language Providers for any type of translation services needed to conduct TWS-VRS business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Call: 281-906-4987 ● Email: VRBusinessRelations@twc.texas.gov 	

<p><i>the need to learn more about resources for families whose primary language is not English.</i></p>	<p>Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities: Translation & Interpretation Stipends</p>	<p>This resource provides available state stipends for translating services to help mitigate language barriers in services. https://tcdd.texas.gov/grants/funding-available/translation-stipends/</p>	
	<p>Stipend Request Form</p>	<p>This is the actual downloadable and fillable form for requesting a state stipend. https://tcdd.texas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Stipend-Application-Form-Translation-6-22-22.pdf</p>	
<p>Knowledge and Skills to Work with Diverse Families</p> <p><i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need to learn how to serve families from different cultural backgrounds and belief systems.</i></p>	<p>Designing Transition Programs for Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Students with Disabilities</p>	<p>This resource provides a "Sample CLD Family Survey" of useful questions to ask during an interview in order to gain a better understanding of a family's potential cultural barriers to better inform practice and service approach. https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/EJ1014882.pdf</p>	
	<p>Latin Families Beliefs and Expectations - "From School to Adult Life: Transition Needs for Latino Youth with Disabilities and Their Families"</p>	<p>This article provides some insight into the challenges of working with Latino Youth Families of Students with Disabilities. It identifies 5 main findings regarding considerations when working with this population: language issues, concerns regarding documentation and citizenship, lack of culturally appropriate practices, barriers to family participation and limited school and community resources. https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/0885728809359004?casa_token=GOU1DpdSOhsAAAAA:rlgJSD4NjE3RzBDC54PNHYjhtXTbFAdNaBavx85cVIGJ3TWW3JujPfm_EB64xdZATzX6vZzQiQ3bDA</p>	

	<p>Transition Planning Tips for Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Youth with Disabilities</p>	<p>This article suggests ideas to incorporate when working with culturally diverse populations.</p> <p>https://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c250.pdf</p>	
	<p>Getting Off to a Good Start: Positive interactions with diverse families</p>	<p>This is a great resource to use when collaborating and meeting with culturally diverse families. It lists strategies to conduct an effective family meeting, and sets the stage for a positive and productive family meeting.</p> <p>https://www.pacer.org/parent/php/PHP-c131.pdf</p> <p>This resource is the Texas Migrant Education Program (TMEP) portal for migrant students.</p> <p>https://www.txmigrant.net/Home/MEPStaff</p>	 
	<p>Working with Immigrant and Refugee Families</p>	<p>This resource provides training information on culturally responsive practices when working with immigrant and migrant families in education.</p> <p>https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/diverse-populations/immigration/working/</p>	

The Need to Promote Community Support			
Suggested Solutions with Definitions	Suggested Resources	Description for the Resources	QR codes
<p>Transportation Services</p> <p><i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need to find available and affordable transportation options for youth with disabilities and their families.</i></p>	<p>211 Texas</p>	<p>Under the 'Transportation Resources' tab, they provide multiple pieces of information, including disability-related transportation, Medicaid services transportation, and transportation for medical appointments.</p> <p>https://www.211texas.org/</p>	

	<p>City Public Transportation Websites</p>	<p>This lists the public transportation system website information for the cities that were in the focus group study.</p> <p>Dallas: https://www.dart.org/</p> <p>Austin: https://www.capmetro.org/</p> <p>Corpus Christi: https://www.ccrta.org/</p> <p>Houston: https://www.ridemetro.org/</p> <p>Lubbock: https://citibus.com/</p> <p>Tyler: https://www.cityoftyler.org/government/departments/tyler-transit</p>	<p>Dallas: ; </p> <p>Austin: ; </p> <p>Corpus Christi: </p> <p>; Houston: </p> <p>Lubbock: ; </p> <p>Tyler: </p>
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The Need for Support from Policy			
Transition Guidelines and Related Resources	Transition guidelines	https://www.twc.texas.gov/	
<i>Transition educators and VR counselors identified the need for specific transition guidelines to inform their practices.</i>			