

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provides the means for students age 14-22 with a disability to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and is intended to increase the nation's workforce service delivery system.

Pre-ETS are coordinated in partnership with the local Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) office and the region's Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs), students and their families, the students' teachers, and/or other school professionals who may already be involved in support or service provisions (such as Special Education Director, therapy provider, etc.).

Pre-ETS are the career-focused preparation services outlined below:

- **Job Exploration:** Exploring the world of work and career choices
- **Work-Based Learning:** Engaging in paid or non-paid work experience which may be in-school and/or after-school
- **Workplace Readiness:** Preparing students for the workplace
- **Self-Advocacy:** Helping the students learn more about themselves, their disabilities, and how to interact in the world
- **Post-Secondary Counseling and Enrollment Assistance:** Exploring options for students seeking careers that require post-secondary education

The following information regarding Pre-ETS may be useful:

- Pre-ETS are designed to supplement and enhance, **not** replace, a Local Education Agency's transition program.
- The student is **not** required to have a current Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or 504 plan in order to receive Pre-ETS but disability certification is required.
- There is **no cost** for Pre-ETS to the individuals receiving the services or their families.
- Pre-ETS are provided by local CRPs that hold agreements with the Tennessee VR Program.
- A legal guardian's written consent is **required** in order to provide Pre-ETS to youth younger than age eighteen or who have a legal guardian to assist them with decision making.
- Participation in Pre-ETS **does not** qualify an individual for VR services. *If a student is interested in VR services, please contact the local VR counselor. We strongly encourage you to connect with your local VR Counselor to determine eligibility and what services may be available to assist the student.*
- A **student may receive any one or any combination** of Pre-ETS tailored to their educational needs and the goal of competitive integrated employment.

Additional Resources:

- Disability Rights Tennessee, Client Assistance Program: www.disabilityrightstn.org or 1-800-342-1660
- Tennessee Vocational Rehabilitation Program: <http://www.tn.gov/humanservices/article/office-locator-trc-ttap>
- US Department of Education, WIOA, Overview of Title IV, Amendments of Rehabilitation Act of 1973: <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/publications/wioa-changes-to-rehab-act.pdf>
- National Collaborative on Work-force and Disability, Guideposts for Success: <http://www.ncwd-youth.info/guideposts/>