

Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

The National Center for Disability Education and
Training at University of Oklahoma Outreach

Kiamichi Technology Center

Central Technology Center

Pre-ETS

FY2025

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

FACT SHEET

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, the National Center for Disability Education and Training at University of Oklahoma Outreach, along with Central Technology Center and Kiamichi Technology Center, offer **Pre-Employment Transition Services** (Pre-ETS) activities to high school students with disabilities. The activities described below are introductory services and are intended to help students with disabilities get an early start in identifying career interests to achieve community integration, independence, post-secondary education and/or competitive integrated employment.

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

- **Job Exploration:** Exploring the world of work and career options; skills-assessments and interest inventories, labor market and in-demand occupation information
- **Work-Based Learning:** Explore appropriate workplace behaviors, participate in work-site tours and job shadowing experiences
- **Workplace Readiness:** Preparing students for the workplace; soft skills training, peer mentoring, independent living skills, and accessing transportation
- **Self-Advocacy:** Helping the student learn more about themselves, their disabilities, and how to present themselves responsibly; recognize their strengths and how to advocate for their needs and develop strategies for goal setting, time management and problem solving
- **Post-Secondary Counseling:** Exploring options for students seeking careers that require post-secondary education

Pre-ETS coordination:

- Pre-ETS activities are designed to supplement and enhance, not replace, a local education agency's transition program.
- Pre-ETS is designed to assist *students with documented disabilities*, ages 14-21, and enrolled in an education program.
- Students are not required to have a current Individual Education Plan (IEP), 504 plan, or have been determined eligible or ineligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services to participate in Pre-ETS activities.
- There is **no cost** for Pre-ETS to individual's receiving the services, their families or the school.
- A legal guardian's written consent is required to provide Pre-ETS.
- Participation in Pre-ETS does **not** qualify an individual for VR services.
- A student **may receive any one or any combination** of Pre-ETS tailored to their educational needs and the goal of competitive integrated employment.
- Pre-ETS activities can be provided **individually** or in a **group setting**.

Who can participate?

One or more Pre-Employment Transition Service activities can be provided to students with disabilities who have been determined eligible or are potentially eligible for DRS services and who have identified need for Pre-Employment Transition Services.



When and where do Pre-ETS take place?

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, the National Center for Disability Education and Training at University of Oklahoma Outreach, along with Central Technology Center and Kiamichi Technology Center, transition specialists work in collaboration with school personnel and other community partners to provide Pre-Employment Transition Service activities. These activities may be provided individually or in groups. They may take place during or after school hours, depending on the activity, duration, availability of student and coordination with partners.

How do I request Pre-ETS?

Student with a disability, who are potentially eligible or already eligible for DRS services, must complete a "Request for Pre-Employment Transition Services Authorization" form. The form must be signed by his/her parent or legal guardian and school staff.

How can Pre-ETS specialists support you?

- Conduct regularly scheduled school visits to deliver Pre-ETS activities
- Attend IEP meeting when invited
- Assist schools in enhancing established Pre-ETS student services
- Assist in developing clear communication between DRS and Education
- Identify and address community needs related to student skill development
- Partner with VR counselors and other community members in the provision of career development\ and work experiences
- Align curriculum and programs vertically across grade levels and content areas
- Structured communication and intervention regarding student needs

Benefits to the high school student?

- ✓ Identification of student career interests and needs
- ✓ Awareness of the variety of options and the role of post-secondary education and training
- ✓ Development of plan with outcome-oriented goals and activities
- ✓ Awareness of the variety of careers available and the variety of jobs within career fields
- ✓ Broaden perspective of personal skills to utilize, reinforce and develop for work
- ✓ Increased communication with family about student's progress and needs
- ✓ Broaden self-awareness, including how to request accommodations or services and supports

To request more information about Pre-ETS contact the following:

OU contact: Dr. Annie Baghdayan at abaghda1@ou.edu

Central Technology Center contact: Shelly Rentz at shelly.rentz@centraltech.edu

Kiamichi Technology Center contact: Skylar Bell at sbell@ktc.edu