

## Ohio Department of Education and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP):

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### ➤ **What is the Ohio Transition Support Partnership (OTSP)?**

The partnership between the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) seeks to improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities, beginning at age 14. This innovative collaboration changes the nature and impact of transition services for students with disabilities in Ohio. The model supports earlier engagement in the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process, helping students with disabilities get a head start on becoming job ready and better prepared to enter the workforce with the skills necessary to be successful in today's labor market.

### ➤ **OTSP Model:**

- Funds 30 VR Counselors and 21 Caseload Assistants who have an increased presence in Career-Technical Planning Districts (CTPDs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) statewide.
- Expands access for students with disabilities to engage in career exploration and skill development at a younger age, launching them on a path to career success and independence.
- Increases participation of VR Counselors and Caseload Assistants in Individualized Education Program (IEP) team meetings ensuring cross-agency planning and earlier career preparation.
- Improves collaboration between VR staff, students with disabilities, their families, educators and other local partners to provide person-centered vocational guidance and counseling and employment services.
- Provides students, families and school personnel with up-to-date, in-demand career information needed to achieve high quality employment outcomes.
- Improves strategies to assist students with disabilities secure employment prior to graduation and connect them with long-term services and supports when needed and available to ensure ongoing success.
- Strengthens partnership between OOD staff and ODE's regional State Support Teams (SSTs) to increase statewide capacity to enhance transition services.

### ➤ **Who is eligible to participate?**

Students with disabilities ages 14-21, who are receiving services under an IEP, meet OOD eligibility criteria and who demonstrate a need for VR services are eligible for OTSP.

## ➤ What types of services are available?

This model utilizes a person-centered, agency-neutral and outcome-focused approach to comprehensive career planning that is based on established evidence-based predictors of success. It is a progressive service delivery model designed to increase independence and career readiness. While a full range of VR services are available, service provision is based on data-driven decisions and is designed to meet students where they are on their unique path to employment. Typical services may include:

- Career Exploration
- Authentic Work-Based Learning experiences in integrated settings
- Soft Skills curriculum promoting Self-Awareness and Self-Advocacy Skills
- Job Development and On-The-Job Supports

## ➤ Evidence-based Predictors<sup>1</sup> for Transition Youth

OTSP embraces several evidence-based predictors of post-school success, including:

- Students with Specific Learning Disabilities are 30% more likely and students with Other Health Impairments are more than three times more likely to enter full-time employment if they have three or more semesters of career-technical education.
- Youth who participate in transition programs with 2 or more paid jobs during high school are more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education. This partnership facilitates involvement at earlier ages providing more opportunities for paid work experiences.
- Students who receive services from 3-6 community-based agencies are more likely to be engaged in post-school employment or education. This partnership includes services and collaboration from OOD, LEAs, CTPDs, SST Consultants, and more.

<sup>1</sup>National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)

## ➤ How can I learn more?

For more information regarding transition services please visit, <http://ood.ohio.gov/Transition-Students> or contact your local OOD office, State Support Team (SST) Transition Contact or SST Career Technical Planning District Consultant working in your region. Contact information:

### **Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities**

<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BVR/Regional-Offices>

<http://ood.ohio.gov/OTSP>

### **Ohio Department of Education**

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Improvement/State-Support-Teams>

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Federal-and-State-Requirements/Secondary-Transition-and-Workforce-Development>