

What is the Community Work Transition Program (CWTP)?

The CWTP is a fee-for-service program that provides vocational rehabilitation services to students with disabilities statewide. The program began in 1984 and continues as a cooperative effort between participating school districts, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), and the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky.

CWTP Goal

The goal of the CWTP is to provide community work exploration and assist students in gaining competitive integrated employment prior to high school exit. Additionally, the program provides exposure and experiences in career and employment through Pre-Employment Transition Services.

What federal law governs the CWTP?

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) governs OVR. The CWTP is an OVR program. The provision of Transition Services through the CWTP falls under the mandates of the WIOA.

What specific services does the CWTP provide?

The program provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and CWTP Transition Services.

CWTP Continuum

The CWTP begins with Pre-ETS in grade 9. Application to and eligibility determination for OVR services occurs at grade 11. CWTP Transition Services begin in grade 11, after eligibility determination.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

OVR considers students who have an IEP, 504 plan, or documented disability from a doctor, psychologist, or medical professional as Potentially Eligible for receiving Pre-ETS.

Pre-ETS, as the earliest set of services available, are most beneficial to students in the early stages of employment exploration and exposure. The services are short term in nature and designed to help students identify career interests.

OVR Eligibility Determination

To continue to CWTP Transition Services or other OVR services as appropriate, students participating in the program are expected to apply for OVR Services at the beginning of grade 11. Eligibility is determined by an OVR Counselor.

Who is eligible for OVR Services?

Students must have a significant disability, as defined by OVR are eligible for OVR services. An individual with a significant disability must:

- A. have a severe physical or mental impairment, or combination of impairments that seriously limits one of the functional capacities listed below, and
- B. be expected to require multiple vocational rehabilitation services (including guidance and counseling) over an extended period of time.

The seven major areas of functional capacities include Self-Care, Work Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Communication, Mobility, Self-Direction and Work Tolerance.

OVR Service Determination

Once eligible for OVR services, the OVR counselor determines what program and/or services are most appropriate for a student to achieve their transition and employment goals. The options include CWTP Transition Services, Guidance and Counseling from OVR Counselor, Pre-ETS, a combination of services, or other services as needed by an individual student.

These individualized transition services help students with disabilities plan and achieve their vocational and transition goals. OVR transition services vary depending on individual student needs and availability of types of services in any given area.

Factors to Consider for CWTP Transition Services

- Students have a significant disability, as defined by OVR.
- Students must require services from a CWTP Employment Specialist to obtain and maintain employment.
- The student and parent or legal guardian want the student to gain competitive integrated employment in the community prior to high school exit and be in the program.
- There is time in the student's schedule to receive services in the community at job and employment sites.

CWTP Transition Services are not appropriate for all students. This includes but is not limited to students planning to pursue post-secondary education upon high school exit (colleges or universities, community or technical colleges, branches of the military, post-secondary training facilities, Carl D. Perkins Vocational Training Center, etc.); students not meeting the disability definition and other referral factors; and students better served by continued Pre-ETS, guidance and counseling from an OVR Counselor, or other services as needed by an individual student.

CWTP Transition Services

CWTP Transition Services include comprehensive vocational assessment, actively searching for a job, coaching upon employment, and employment follow-up.

Sources for Additional Information

CWTP Website: <https://hdi.uky.edu/cwtp>

CWTP Policies & Procedures: [cwtp-forms – HDI \(uky.edu\)](#)

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