

## What is the Community Work Transition Program (CWTP)?

The CWTP, a project of the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky, is a fee-for-service program that provides vocational rehabilitation services to students with disabilities across Kentucky. Established in 1984, the program continues to operate through a partnership among HDI, participating school districts, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

### 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 (Pre-ETS).

### What federal law governs the CWTP?

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) governs OVR. The provision of Pre-ETS and Transition Services through the CWTP falls under the mandates of the WIOA.

### What specific services does the CWTP provide?

The program provides Pre-ETS and CWTP Transition Services. Pre-ETS are optional. CWTP Transition Services are mandatory.

### CWTP Continuum

The CWTP begins with Pre-ETS, typically 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 receive CWTP Transition Services or other OVR services as appropriate, students participating in the program are referred to apply for OVR Services at the beginning of grade 11. An OVR Counselor determines eligibility.

### Who is eligible for OVR Services?

The VR Counselor bases eligibility on the same criteria as for all other consumers of OVR. To receive services, an individual must meet eligibility requirements.

There are four requirements for eligibility.

1. An individual must have a physical or mental impairment.
2. The impairment must result in a substantial impediment to employment.
3. An individual must be able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services in terms of employment outcome.
4. An individual must require vocational rehabilitation services in order to obtain or maintain appropriate employment.

## OVR Service Determination

Once eligible for OVR services, the OVR counselor determines what program and/or services are necessary 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

The VR Counselor considers the following factors when determining if CWTP Transition Services are necessary for a student.

- The student has a significant disability, as defined by OVR.
- The student must require services from a CWTP Employment Specialist to obtain and maintain employment.
- The student and parent or legal guardian wants 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: [Forms – Community Work Transition Program](#)

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