

What is the Community Work Transition Program (CWTP)?

The CWTP is a fee-for-service program that provides individualized vocational rehabilitation services to students with significant 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. OVR designed the program:

- for OVR potentially eligible students who expressed an interest in exploring employment as a post-secondary goal and/or may require a community based vocational service, including the assistance of an Employment Specialist in order to obtain and maintain employment, and
- for students accepted for services by OVR who have identified employment as a post-school outcome and who demonstrated a need for assistance to achieve their postsecondary employment goal.

CWTP Goal

The goal of the program is for participating students to gain the skills needed to achieve competitive integrated employment before graduation or high school exit.

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. The WIOA definition of Transition Services follows in the next paragraph. The underscores added within the definition highlight the focus for the CWTP, a coordinated set of the activities provided so students can exit high school with competitive integrated employment.

Transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a student or youth with a disability—

- (i) Designed within an outcome-oriented process that promotes movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational training, competitive integrated employment, supported employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- (ii) Based upon the individual student's or youth's needs, taking into account the student's or youth's preferences and interests;
- (iii) That includes instruction, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation;
- (iv) That promotes or facilitates the achievement of the employment outcome identified in the student's or youth's individualized plan for employment; and
- (v) That includes outreach to and engagement of the parents, or, as appropriate, the representative of such a student or youth with a disability.

(Authority: Sections 12(c) and 103(a)(15) and (b)(7) of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; 29 U.S.C. 709(c) and 723(a)(15) and (b)(7))

What specific services does the CWTP provide?

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

The CWTP provides the services on a continuum, beginning with Pre-ETS for OVR potentially eligible students in grades 9 and 10. Pre-ETS, as the earliest set of services available for students with disabilities under the OVR program, are most beneficial to students with disabilities in the early stages of employment exploration. The services are short term in nature and designed to help students identify career interests.

CWTP Transition Services are next on the continuum and provide for further development and pursuit of career interests with a comprehensive vocational assessment, job search, job placement, and job follow-up. Students in the program begin CWTP Transition Services in grade 11, when determined eligible for services by OVR, and continue until high school graduation or exit.

Who can participate in the CWTP?

Students with a significant disability, as defined by OVR, may participate in the CWTP. 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.

Factors to Consider Prior to Program Referral

- The CWTP services are for students with significant disabilities, as defined by OVR.
- Students must require services from a CWTP Employment Specialist in order to obtain and maintain employment.
- The student and parent or legal guardian have expressed a desire for the student to get a job in the community, and be in the program.
- There is time in the student's schedule to allow for community activities.
- Prior to implementing CWTP Transition Services students must be determined eligible for OVR services and have an open case with OVR.

CWTP Eligibility Determination

The OVR Counselor determines whether a student has a significant disability and if they qualify for services. Once eligible for OVR services, the OVR counselor determines what program and/or services will be most appropriate for that student to achieve their transition and employment goals (i.e. CWTP, general OVR transition services, Pre-ETS by another provider).

The CWTP is not appropriate for all students (i.e., students planning to pursue post-secondary education upon high school exit).

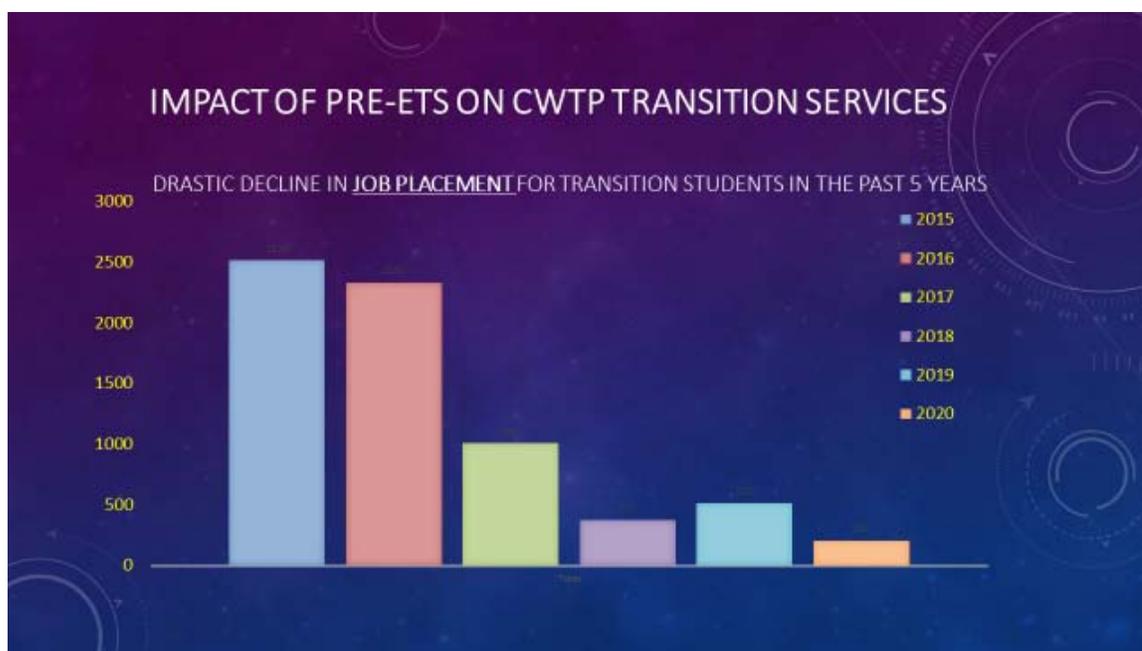
How does the CWTP fit within the range of OVR Transition Services?

OVR can provide many types of individualized transition services to help students with disabilities plan and achieve their vocational and transition goals. The CWTP is just ONE of those types of services. OVR transition services vary depending on individual student needs and availability of types of services in any given area. The CWTP is a specific OVR transition service developed to help participating students find competitive integrated employment upon high school graduation.

OVR changed the provision of Pre-ETS for students participating in the CWTP to grades 9 and 10, beginning SY 2021-2022. Why?

OVR added Pre-ETS to the CWTP in 2014, due to the passage of WIOA. From 1984 to 2014, the CWTP provided Transition Services only. Upon review of trend data, OVR found a negative impact of Pre-ETS on CWTP Transition Services. School districts were not giving CWTP students access to the comprehensive, employment-focused transition services that program participants previously provided and that the program has historically required.

- In School Year 2020-2021, 27 districts with CWTPs provided Pre-ETS but did not provide Transition Services. This is reflective of the trend that programs are spending more time and resources providing Pre-ETS than CWTP Transition Services.
- The number of students exiting high school with integrated competitive employment (the purpose of the program) decreased, as shown in the graphic below.



Sources for Additional Information

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

CWTP Policies and Procedures Manual: https://hdi.uky.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/CWTPPoliciesProceduresManual_2021-22_Oct.pdf

CWTP Contacts: Trina Hewlett, CWTP Director (859) 218-5965
Stacy Henderson, CWTP Associate Director (270) 999-2877
Beth McDaniel, VR Program Administrator (502) 782-3356
Patricia Wilkerson, CWTP Training Support (270) 635-1828
Jill Griffiths, CWTP Training Specialist (304) 523-7900
Allison Johnson, Exceptional Children Consultant, KDE (502) 564-4970