

## Pre-Employment Transition Services for Tennessee Students with Disabilities.

Middle and high school are a critical time for developing social skills, self-advocacy, and the groundwork for life after high school and independence made possible through employment. The Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS) Rehabilitation Services Division is dedicated to helping qualified students with disabilities across the state find employment success, wellness, and independence by offering Pre-Employment Transition Services.

## What Are Pre-Employment Transition Services?

Commonly referred to as Pre-ETS, Pre-Employment Transition Services are offered free of charge and include the following five focus areas that aim to prepare eligible students for employment and life after high school.

### 1. Job Exploration Counseling

Examples: Career awareness, career speakers, career student organizations

### 2. Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Examples: Job shadowing, paid internships, non-paid work experience, service learning, volunteering

### 3. Postsecondary Counseling

Career clusters, strategies for smooth transition to post-high school, information/guidance on post-school training options

### 4. Workplace Readiness Training

Examples: Social/interpersonal skills, independent living skills, financial literacy, soft "essential" skills

### 5. Self-Advocacy

Examples: self-awareness, disability disclosure/advocacy, decision making, self-determination

## Quick Pre-ETS Facts

- There are over 80 Pre-ETS providers across Tennessee
- In 2021-22, the Rehabilitation Services Division at TDHS served over 5,000 students each month
- Individuals with disabilities may also qualify for assistive technology through the Tennessee Technology Access Program (TTAP)

## Learn More About Pre-ETS Tennessee

Visit our Transition Services webpage at [Tn.Gov/HumanServices/Ds/Vocational-Rehabilitation/Transition-Services.html](https://Tn.Gov/HumanServices/Ds/Vocational-Rehabilitation/Transition-Services.html)

This page has details about Pre-ETS and other services available to students with disabilities.

### E-mail Us:

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**Visit [Tn.Gov/HumanServices](https://Tn.Gov/HumanServices) and follow us @TNHumanServices with the icons below.**



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## Pre-Employment Transition Services





## Getting Started with Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-ETS are delivered by providers across the state who work in contracted partnerships with TDHS. Follow these steps to get started with Pre-ETS:

1. Ask your school counselor about Pre-ETS in your area or contact the Tennessee Department of Human Services to learn about providers in your region.
2. Submit a completed parental permission form (if the student is under 18) and disability documentation to your provider.
3. After documents are reviewed and approval is received, you will be assigned a Potentially Eligible Vocational Rehabilitation Case and will begin your Pre-ETS journey with your provider. Pre-ETS approval does not guarantee qualification for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services and students approaching high school graduation can reach out to their VR Counselor to learn about options.



## Pre-Employment Transition Services Eligibility in Tennessee

In Tennessee, Pre-ETS are available to students with a documented disability who meet the following conditions:

- Between the ages of 14 - 21
- Enrollment in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program
- Qualification and participation in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan
- Have a need for services



## The Value of Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Individuals with disabilities are unemployed at a higher rate than any other demographic and Pre-ETS can help students break this cycle.
- Pre-ETS can build student independence, confidence, and readiness for a lifetime of successful employment.
- Hands-on learning in real work settings increases student engagement and moves them beyond theory.
- High school is a great time to learn how to get a job, keep a job, become a confident worker, and make an educated decision about pursuing higher education or advanced training.