

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

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

The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) and Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) are partnering to improve post-secondary outcomes for students with disabilities, beginning at age 14. This innovative collaboration will change the nature and impact of transition services for students with disabilities in Ohio. The new model will help 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 workforce.

➤ **OTSP Model:**

- Funds 26 Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors and 13 Caseload Assistants who will have an increased presence in career technical planning districts (CTPDs) and other local education agencies 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 in individualized education program (IEP) team meetings ensuring cross-agency planning and earlier career preparation.
- Improves collaboration between VR Counselors, 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 ensure high quality employment outcomes.
- Improves strategies to ensure that students with disabilities secure employment prior to graduation and connect with long-term supports services when needed and available to ensure long term success.
- Increases partnering between OOD staff and ODE State Support Teams (SSTs) to build capacity across the state 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 people 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 Job Coaching Services

➤ Evidence-based Predictors for Transition Youth

TSP is a model that embraces several evidence-based predictors of post-school success, including:

- Students with 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. The 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 enrolled in post-school employment. The Partnership includes services and collaboration from OOD, Local Education Agencies, Career-Technical Education Centers and SST Transition Specialists.

➤ How can I refer a student?

For more information, please contact your local OOD office, SST Transition Contact or SST CTPD Consultant working in your region.

Contact information:

- **OOD** - Julie Hance
Julie.Hance@ood.ohio.gov
<http://www.ood.ohio.gov/Core-Services/BVR/Regional-Offices>
- **ODE** - Amy Szymanski
esclew_aszy@sstr1.org
<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/School-Improvement/State-Support-Teams>