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Attendee Participation

Open and close your control panel
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**Note:** Today’s presentation is being recorded and will be provided within 48 hours.
Questions

Your Participation

- Please continue to submit your text questions and comments using the Questions panel.

- Please raise your hand to be unmuted for verbal questions.

Note: Today’s presentation is being recorded and the link will be sent to you when it is available.
Housekeeping

Webinar Housekeeping
PARENT CENTERS AND PRE-ETS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Colorado
Massachusetts
Missouri
New York
Our Panel

Lisa Bowles
**MPACT – Missouri Parents Act**

Lindsay Hartzler
**Pre-Employment Transition Specialist (Pre-ETS)**

Leslie Leslie
**Federation for Children with Special Needs**

Debby Loveall-Stewart
**MPACT – Missouri Parents Act**

Beth Schaffner
**PEAK Parent Center, Inc.**

Tonia Weichmann
**Parent Network of WNY**
PRE-EMPLOYMENT
TRANSITION SERVICES

Pre-ETS
What are Pre-ETS

Transition and Employment

States are required to provide "pre-employment transition services" to "Students with Disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services."

Introduce young adults to activities that will increase their knowledge of the world of work, work options, and education.
Eligibility

Students with Disabilities who are:

- Aged 14-21 years old
- Enrolled in an educational program
- Potential eligible for VR services
- Eligible for Section 504 plan in the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act
- Are receiving Special Education under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Never applied and/or been found to not benefit for VR services (NY)
Required Pre-ETS Services

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary educational programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
- Instruction in self-advocacy
Challenges to Pre-ETS Engagement

- Professionals don’t always understand the role of the family.
- Systems don’t always understand the role of parent centers.
- Pre-ETS services lack a holistic approach.
- Families defer to professionals.
- New challenges are emerging during COVID-19 pandemic.
Parent Center’s Role in Pre-ETS

• Inform and train families and youth.

• Assure systems’ accountability to WIOA in Pre-ETS practices.

• Bring family and youth perspective to policymakers and providers.

• Facilitate and support holistic, authentically person-centered approaches.

• Partner with agencies to provide Pre-ETS services.
Incorporating Pre-ETS into a Parent Center’s Work

Families Together – Kansas PTI
Pre-ETS Information

Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC): www.wintac.org/topic-areas/pre-employment-transition-services
NEW YORK STATE

Western New York
Buffalo area
Making it work: Western New York

- Developing relationships with school districts and organizations that support youth with disabilities.
- A marketing campaigns to inform families, youth, and professionals of available services.
- As a group(s) we have on-going meetings with providers to discuss updates, to share resources, and discuss challenges.
WNY has 2 different groups of agencies/organizations that are providing support and implementation of the Pre-ETS services

- **Pre-ETS Works**
  - Covers a specific county
  - 4 partner agencies/organizations

- **PROMOTE Youth**
  - Covers 4 different counties
  - 9 partner agencies/organizations
Challenges

• Pandemic

• Schools going to a remote model

• Access to the students

• Lack of knowledge about the program
Overcoming the Challenges

✓ Continued to meet as a group to discuss options and strategies

✓ Attended meetings with School administrators to provide support

✓ Developed marketing material and used our resources to share information about Pre-ETS

✓ On-going discussions around engagement of students and families
Strategies for Success

Ideas

• Created virtual opportunities
• Maintained the relationships with the schools throughout the closure
• Make connections with other organizations to see if we could fill a need

Creativity

• Used social media to engage and inform about Pre-ETS
• Reached out to families and shared information
• Continue to think out side the box and be flexible

The Struggle is part of the Story

Parent Network of Western New York
Pre-ETS in Massachusetts

What are we doing?

Connecting families with accurate and user-friendly information

A Family Guide to Transition Services in Massachusetts
(available in English and Spanish)

http://fcsn.org/transition_guide/english.pdf

https://fcsn.org/linkcenter/
Strategies for Success

- Build on relationships – MRC/ILCs
- Advocate for family support role
- Support vendors/school districts
- Link student/family to resources

The goal of Pre-ETS is to help students with disabilities explore, increase awareness, and prepare for post-secondary employment and education options through 5 core services.
Embedding Pre-ETS in our Parent Center Work

Visions of Community Conference
  Full transition (3) workshop strand
  MRC exhibitor table
  Pre-ETS Vendors – Presenters and Exhibitors

Planning a Life two-day Conferences for parents and professionals

Facebook Livestream Presentations/Webinars

Training for FCSN staff, state VR staff and ILC professionals
Overcoming Barriers

Working with Many Partners:
• MRC Offices in Roxbury, Lawrence, and Springfield
• Ind. Living Centers (ILCs)
• Career Centers
• School Districts

Addressing COVID-19 Issues
• School closures
• Remote Instruction
• Cancellation of work programs

Serving on Committees!
Partnerships

Mass. Dept. of Education

TIP 1: Find out how to apply to get Pre-ETS

TIP 2: Learn about the 5 Pre-ETS services and what a student might receive under those services

TIP 3: Find out what students can learn through Pre-ETS

TIP 4: Students who will need MRC services when they are adults should know

https://fcsn.org/linkcenter/transition-resources/brochures/
Project STELLAR

Supporting Transition to Engaged Lives by Linking Agency Resources

- Focus on family involvement across school and adult service community systems.
- Provide training and information about planning for the transition to postsecondary adult life to enable individuals with disabilities and their families to interact effectively with school districts and agency professionals.
- To form solid community partnerships around the mission of improving outcomes for transition age youth.
Regional Transition Networks (RTN)

• Community stakeholders in the areas of employment, independent living and education.

• Develop a local and sustainable group focused on employment and independent living for youth with disabilities.

• Create partnerships in the community that improve employment and independent living options for youth with disabilities.
Community Partner Example

**PreETS Role with RTNs**

- Pre-Employment Transition Services are delivered directly to students from PreETS Specialists.
- Specialists have established relationships with students, teachers, and schools.

**Benefits of partnering with PreETS:**

- Access to students
- Familiar face for students, teachers, and families at events
- Students /families can be guided toward specific services/agencies that fit their needs and goals
- Specialists have training in reaching students at their level
What RTNs Do

- Identify current effective practices and community resources and services for transitioning youth.
- Identify barriers and gaps in services related to employment for people with disabilities.
- Create action plans for addressing the barriers and gaps.
- Work toward alleviating barriers and gaps in services through information, resources and training.
- Disseminate information about employment options and best practices in the region to families, youth with disabilities, and agencies.
RTN Scope

23 RTN’s… 2 new RTN’s in 2019!
11th annual Statewide MPACT Summit
188 individuals who attended statewide summit
132 youth who attended St. Louis City Summit
15 RTN Events in 2019
Over 900 Youth Attended RTN Events
24 Youth Transition Trainings reaching nearly 1,000 youth

Examples of RTN Events:
• Youth Summits
• Transition Skills Days
• Reverse Job Fairs
• Employment Expos
• PIE Nights
How to Start

Identify Stakeholders

Resource Mapping

- Identify and analyzing the school districts, programs, people, services, and other resources that currently exist in the region/county you are targeting.

Lots of Networking!

Create an Action Plan…
Making it Count

Organizational and Reporting Tools

• Action Plan
• Meeting Notes
• Budget/Process
• Surveys
• Data Collection
  • Meetings, Communications, Information Disseminated, Attendee Reports, etc.
Questions
Contact Information

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Thank You
for joining us for this Webinar!

Please complete our survey

For more information, please contact us at:
raisecenter.org