

Inclusive Higher Education in Kentucky

Kentucky Interagency Transition Council

October 30, 2020

UK Human Development Institute (HDI)

- UK-HDI is Kentucky's University Center on Disability and part of the University Centers for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) national network.
- For more than 50 years, HDI has served as a major leader in thought, policy, and science regarding the lived experiences of people with disabilities.
- A major, university-wide unit of UK, administered through the Office of the Vice President for Research.
- HDI's mission is to improve inclusion, independence and opportunities for people with disabilities and their families.
- Priority areas include *early childhood, education, leadership & self-advocacy, employment, health, universal design & assistive technology, and research & evaluation.*

Categories of College Programs

Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities (TPSID)

- *Model Demonstration projects funded by the US Department of Education, Office of Postsecondary Education*

Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs (CTP)

- *Programs that have been through an approval process and can offer access to federal financial aid*

Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary Programs (CTPs)

- Created by the Higher Education Opportunities Act (HEOA, 2008).
- Designed to support students with intellectual disabilities (ID) who want to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction at an institution of higher education (IHE) in order to prepare for employment.
 - ✓ Social and academic integration of students with ID with their non-disabled peers;
 - ✓ Individualized person-centered planning to improve needed skills and competencies;
 - ✓ Course of study leading to a meaningful credential.

CTPs, *Requirements*

Requires students with ID to have at least one-half of their participation in the program, as determined by the institution, focus on academic components through one or more of the following activities:

- Taking credit-bearing courses with students without disabilities;
- Auditing or otherwise participating in courses with students without disabilities for which the student does not receive regular academic credit;
- Taking non-credit-bearing, non-degree courses with students without disabilities;
- Participating in internships or work-based training in settings with individuals without disabilities.

(HEOA, 2008)

CTPs – *Student Eligibility*

Students who:

- Have a documented ID;
- Have a documented need for financial aid (FAFSA).

Student with an ID means a student –

- With a cognitive impairment characterized by significant limitations in:
 - Intellectual and cognitive functioning; and
 - Adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills.

(HEOA, 2008)

Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary Programs (CTPs)

Students enrolled in an approved CTP:

- Have opportunity to take challenging and meaningful credit and non-credit courses alongside their non-disabled peers and in their chosen fields of study.
- Are eligible for **Federal and State financial assistance** (*even if they don't have a regular high school diploma and are not matriculating toward a degree*).
 - Federal Pell Grant, Work-Study;
 - Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) Program funding
 - *\$500/ semester if enrolled in at least six hours; \$250/semester if enrolled in less than six hours (KY [HB 158](#), 2016).*

CTPs in Kentucky

There are currently three Kentucky IHEs with approved CTP programs:

- ❑ Murray State University
 - ❑ Northern Kentucky University
 - ❑ Bluegrass Community & Technical College
- ***We are currently in the application process and will establish a CTP at the University of Kentucky!***

Why This Matters

In Kentucky:

- Only 17% of students **with disabilities** are enrolled at a college or university.
- Only 7% of students **with ID** are enrolled at a college or university.

What Are the Barriers?

A **2018 Focus Group** found that the greatest barriers to students with ID enrolling in higher education were:

- Lack of funding;
- Lack of knowledge, information, and communication;
- Lack of programs.

What Do We Plan To Do About It?

Work with partners to *increase higher education opportunities and success* for students with ID.

- Opportunities to enroll and be successful in inclusive higher education programs *while still in high school* (Dual Enrollment);
- Opportunities to enroll and be successful in inclusive higher education programs *after leaving high school*.

New Opportunity to Build on Past Success

During the 2020 regular session, the Kentucky General Assembly appropriated \$500,000 to HDI to support students in inclusive higher education programs.

- Provide customized technical assistance and direct support to IHEs to **establish or enhance** postsecondary programs that advance the academic success and social inclusion of students with ID.

Statewide Technical Assistance Center at HDI

- Work with IHE partners to support up to 20 students in 2020-2021;
- Provide customized technical assistance to current CTPs;
- Encourage establishment of new CTPs;
- Offer individualized support to students and families;
- Increase knowledge of students, families, and agencies;
- Strengthen collaboration and coordination across systems;
- Deliver professional development;
- Share information;
- Conduct research and evaluation.

Additional Resources

- [Kentucky Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities](#)
 - *Program Brief for IHEs interested in establishing a CTP*
- [KentuckyWorks - Postsecondary Education](#)
 - *Information on customized employment, Universal Design, college mentoring, CTPs, and other resources*
- [ThinkCollege](#)
 - *National Coordinating Center for Transition Postsecondary Programs for Students with ID*

Contact Information

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QUESTIONS

ANSWERS