

Research Study Update: Pre-ETS Services for Transition-Age Youth with Significant Disabilities

Teresa Belluscio

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HDI's Vision

Our vision is the full participation and contribution of *all* people with disabilities in *all* aspects of society.

Brief Study Goals & Our Partners

- Use knowledge translation (KT) methods to develop and deliver a toolkit for VR counselors providing Pre-ETS to students with significant disabilities age 14 to 16. Using a “Knowledge-to-Action” process. Identifying the problem, modifying what we know to the local content, evaluating barriers and facilitators, creating and modifying interventions, monitoring the process and evaluating the outcomes.
- To that end, goal is to obtain a representative sample of SWD aged 14-16 from two states (partnering w/ VCU) that have completed the study and compile post study interviews of 3 groups, used to further the KT process, edit lessons with the intent of providing the toolkit upon the study completion.
- In full support of KY OVR Division of Field Services, Transition Services.

5-year study, currently in year 3, Phase 2

- **(YR 1) PHASE 1: Knowledge Inquiry.** Interviewed 3 groups; students w/dis & families, educators & providers, and VR counselors on their experiences with Pre-ETS to obtain feedback that will build strategies for toolkit.
COMPLETE.
- **(YR 2-3) PHASE 2: Knowledge Synthesis. Delivering Pre-ETS lessons in job exploration, workplace readiness, and work-based learning provided to a cohort of YWD. Currently seeking high schools to participate.**
- **(YR 4-5) PHASE 3: Knowledge Tools/Products.** Toolkit developed based on data collected in Phase 1 & 2 of study. Data collected on use and effectiveness of toolkit with VR counselors.

Phase 2 consists of the following

- Seeking a representative number of schools in KY to participate in the study. Using VR's 5 regions of the state as our guide (East, South, West, East Central and West Central).
- GOAL: recruit 1-2 school districts in each of 5 KY regions to participate in the study. A total of 2 study groups from each of 5 regions. 10 total. (School districts can support 2 study groups).
- Each cohort consists of 5 study participants who meet study criteria. With a goal of having 10 studies (2 per region) with 5 students per cohort, 50 study participants.
- Study participants can come from a high school or middle school. Meet criteria of aged 14-16 with significant disabilities (as defined by VR).
- Phase 2 implementation will continue through 21 – 22 school year and possibly if schools have extended school into the 2022 summer.

Recruiting Process

Initial contacts with School Administrators, VR, school districts- namely Directors of Special Education and Assistant Directors

Team consists of DoSE, Assistant Director, VR counselor for school or Pre-ETS Regional Coordinator, CWTP school , identified teacher, and Employment Specialist

Provide Introduction to the study, offer zoom or call to answer questions that educators may have and to discuss how the study can be done at the school and identifying a school within the district that is a good fit for the study.

Meet with the team virtually or in person to discuss details such as the AT needs of the cohort, when and where the lessons will be taught. We work with the schools schedule.

Study details

- Lessons taught by HDI study personnel
- Prefer lessons in person but can also be done virtually
- Consent / assent forms
- Pre/post quizzes for students
- A total of 12 hours
- (9 hours of pre tests lessons instruction)
- 3 1-hour lessons in job readiness
- 6 1-hour lessons in workplace readiness
- 1 3-hour experience in the community work-based experience. Idea location is a local business

How can you help?

- Spread the word about the study
- Speak to educators about having the study in their district
- Send me an email if interested
- Send contacts my way



Teresa Belluscio

Teresa.Belluscio@uky.edu

859-200-8404