

# Youth One Year Out (YOYO)



## **What is the YOYO?**

The YOYO is a voluntary phone interview that students with disabilities take part in one year after exiting high school. During the interview, former students can describe their experiences since leaving high school and learn about available resources. When necessary, information may be gathered from a parent, guardian, or caregiver on behalf of the student. The YOYO interview is voluntary and confidential.

## **When is the YOYO?**

The YOYO takes place every year between April 1 and August 31. It's important that the school obtains updated contact information before the student's final year. Contact KYPSSO for best practices for contacting former students. Schools should also notify former students in preparation for the YOYO interview.

## **Who conducts the YOYO?**

The district Director of Special Education will designate staff to conduct the YOYO interviews. All YOYO interviewers must attend a training provided by KYPSSO.

## **Why is the YOYO important?**

The YOYO is a federal and state requirement. Information gathered from the interview can be used to help schools know how well their programs are working. It helps identify factors leading to a successful transition from high school to adulthood.

## **About KYPSSO:**

The Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (KYPSSO) aims to increase the capacity of Local Education Agencies (LEAs), teachers, parents, and adult service providers to provide exemplary transition planning and increase student post-school success. KYPSSO works closely with Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers (SERTACs) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to provide data and training to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities. KYPSSO develops and oversees the Youth One Year Out former student interview (YOYO), which collects valuable post-school outcome data. This data is often used for research by both KYPSSO and partners.



## Findings from the 2023 YOYO:

Over half of former students (**66%**) participated in the 2023 YOYO interview. These students exited high school between 2021-2022.

One year after exiting high school, former students were:

- Competitively employed – **45.5%**
- Other employment (E.g., self-employed) – **17.8%**
- Enrolled in higher education – **18.1%**
- Enrolled in other postsecondary education/training programs – **6.8%**

Of those former students enrolled in postsecondary education:

- Enrolled in 2-year college - **34%**
- Enrolled in 4-year college - **27%**
- Working towards a bachelor's degree - **29%**
- Working towards an associate degree - **23%**
- Working towards a certificate - **21%**

Of those former students who were employed, **67%** reported that they found their job either very or somewhat interesting.

Only **37%** of former students pursuing postsecondary education contacted their Disability Services Coordinator (DSC).

### District/SERTAC spotlight:

- 54 districts had completion rates at 90% or above!
- Congratulations to the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) for having the highest SERTAC completion rate!

### What did former students (and their parents) say in 2023?

“She was helped most by having to learn to advocate for herself, whether in person or virtual. Advocating for her own needs and thoughts was helpful, and having teachers who were open to listen to what she had to say encouraged that.”

“My teachers helped me with my reading and finances so that I could own my own business one day. It helped me to become more confident and come out of my shell.”

“Hard adjusting to bills and making a budget. Could of used more real life money management skills.”

“I am excited to be a counselor to help students with brain injuries and I want to keep going to school until I get my doctorate.”

### Contact KYP SO:

Email: [information@kypso.org](mailto:information@kypso.org)

Web: [kypso.org](http://kypso.org)

