

Youth One Year Out (YOYO)



What is the YOYO?

The YOYO is a voluntary and confidential 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.

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 KPSO 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 KPSO.

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 KPSO:

The Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (KPSO) 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. KPSO 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. KPSO develops and oversees the YOYO, which collects valuable post-school outcome data. This data is often used for research by both KPSO and partners.



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Findings from the 2025 YOYO:

Over half of former students (**61.8%**) participated in the 2025 YOYO interview. These students exited high school during the 2023-2024 school year.

One year after exiting high school, former students were:

- Competitively employed– **41.4%**
- Other employment (E.g., self-employed)– **16.6%**
- Enrolled in higher education– **18.3%**
- Enrolled in other postsecondary education/training programs– **6.6%**

Only **32.8%** of former students pursuing postsecondary education contacted their Disability Services Coordinator (DSC).

District/SERTAC spotlight:

- 59 districts had completion rates of 90% or above (last year, this # was 49).
- Congratulations to the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) for having the highest SERTAC completion rate!

What did former students (and their parents) say in 2025?



“Personal finance was a big help to help me learn to budget and manage money.”

“College is hard, but using the resources the school has to offer is helping me to succeed.”

“Things have been going great. I am in college to get a degree in massage therapy and chiropractic care. I have a job at a local restaurant.”

“The most important thing was probably building relationships with my classmates, which helped me to be more outgoing in college. The second thing would be disability services.”

“She is becoming more ambitious and looking forward to independent living.”

“I am working on getting my driver's license. I have my permit, and I also got employee of the month at my job.”

“STEAM Academy was very helpful, and they were absolutely phenomenal. She had a support group around her.”

Contact KYP SO:

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