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Fast Facts

PreETS.org — Virginia's Collaborative Model for Pre-Employment Transition Services

How to Successfully Implement Pre-ETS

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) help students with disabilities prepare for life after high school. Planning and service delivery should meet students' individual needs. To do this, teams should be flexible and creative. DARS counselors and school staff can use the tips below to help with planning and delivery of Pre-ETS.

Start students early and be flexible.

Students can begin Pre-ETS at age 14 to allow for exploration as their career interests change throughout high school.

Introduce students to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities in their school division.

Plan a CTE tour in middle school so students can see these classes in action. Provide opportunities for young students to hear from current CTE students.

Use the student's SPIN (Strengths, Preferences, Interests, and Needs) to create Pre-ETS activities.

Work with DARS and family members to identify opportunities for exploration. Brainstorm as a team to address unique student needs.

Work with business partners to enhance learning in the classroom and community.

Ask them to speak to students about career pathways and opportunities. Invite local business partners to take part in reverse job fairs or mock interviews.

Use your network to develop opportunities for students.

Add and build on opportunities that align with school-based activities. Survey students to identify common interests.

Be flexible when scheduling work-based learning.

Consider PSAT testing and early release days as options when scheduling job site tours or job shadowing.

Make work-based learning accessible by offering virtual or hybrid internship opportunities.

This can help with barriers due to transportation and scheduling.

Offer a variety of work-based learning opportunities throughout the school year and summer.

Partnering with Career and Technical Education or community colleges can be a great way to create summer experiences.

Communicate often with families.

Share a quarterly newsletter to provide updates on Pre-ETS activities. Notify parents about vendor courses as well as Pre-ETS activities offered at the school and in the community.

Focus on family engagement.

Plan an event for students and families that highlights Pre-ETS partners and community resources. Ask for feedback from families about their experience.

More information about DARS can be found at www.dars.virginia.gov/drs/transitionservices.htm or by calling 804-662-7000.

