



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

GET INVOLVED ACTIVITY PLAN

Path: I Want to Go to Work

Course: How Do I Explore My Work
Options?

Lesson: Benefits of Going to Work

Learning Target: Students will be able to describe the benefits of working and why getting a job will help them become more independent. They will understand how a job might affect their SSI benefits, and identify the process of contacting a benefits counselor who can help them.

Pre-ETS Connection: Job Exploration and Self-Advocacy

Time Recommended: 60 Minutes

Transition TN Additional Resources for Instructors

[What Should I Know About How Work Impacts SSI Benefits?](#)

[Supports and Partnerships: Social Security Administration](#)

[Partnership Overview: Benefits to Work](#)

[Family Resources: Finances and Benefits](#)

[Virtual Transition Fair: Employment Programs and Resources](#)

Materials

- Computers or tablets if completing activity with technology
- Printed resources as needed (Fact Sheet, Activity Cards, Infographic, Interview Questions and Recording Form)

Vocabulary Review

- Review the suggested vocabulary using the online vocabulary review or print out course vocabulary flashcards.

Think About

Ask students these questions to prompt discussion and guide students throughout this activity

1. What can you gain from getting a job and going to work?
2. What are SSI benefits and how might they affect your decision about going to work?
3. Why is it important to talk to a benefits counselor if you receive SSI benefits?
4. Why is it important to review your benefits when you are getting close to turning 18?
5. How might getting SSI benefits affect your decisions about a job?

Play the Game

- Instruct students to play the game found on the Get Involved page
- Students can play the game independently, work in small groups, or play as a class



School-Based Activity

Discuss:

- Instruct students to go through the fact sheet independently, with a partner, or as a group. After reviewing the fact sheet, use the Think About questions to prompt discussion about how working might impact SSI benefits and the importance of talking to a benefits counselor to learn more about how going to work can impact the benefits they receive.

Explain:

- Emphasize that people who work make friends, become involved in their community, learn how to manage their own money, achieve goals, and learn how to speak up for themselves. Explain that some people with disabilities receive money called SSI benefits from Social Security and going to work can affect the money they receive. Explain that SSI benefits are based on disability and how much money they have. They also get healthcare through SSI. They may wonder what happens to SSI benefits when they go to work. They can work and still receive an SSI check and healthcare. Their money may be adjusted depending on how much they work. Make sure students understand that they will always make more money when working. They or their family might need help understanding SSI benefits and how working will impact them. They will learn about supports that can help them. Students should follow the directions below to put together a correct sequence of events.
 - Students have three options for completing this activity.
 - Option 1: Print the [SSI Benefits and Working Activity Cards](#) and cut out each card. Place each card in the correct order.
 - Option 2: Label the cards 1 through 6 using the space provided on each card.
 - Option 3: Complete the digital activity on the website. [SSI Benefits and Working Activity](#).
 - Students will read through the different cards. Each card represents a step in the process of getting support from the Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program.
 - Students will put the cards in the correct order to demonstrate they understand the correct sequence
 - To extend the activity, students could present to the class their sequence and explain their reasoning
 - Prompt students to discuss how contacting Benefits to Work can help them learn more about how work might impact SSI benefits

Community-Based Extension

Students will choose from a list of questions about SSI benefits and benefits counseling, they will contact a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) representative who can answer their questions.

- [Download the Interview Questions and Recording Form](#)
 - Please note: these are examples of questions. Students can also choose to develop their own questions.
- Guide students to select at least five questions from the “Questions List,” or have the student develop some of their own questions. They will also fill in information about themselves and the representative they are speaking with.



- Assist students in contacting a Work Incentives Planning and Assistance Program (WIPA) representative and setting up a meeting virtually or on the phone.
 - Role-play the phone conversation with the student ahead of time. Consider having students practice leaving messages and asking the representative to repeat or clarify something.
- Have students record the representative's answers to their questions using the fillable form.
- After the conversation, guide students to answer the reflection questions

Differentiate

- Read the content out loud to the students
- Allow students to use audio recordings
- Provide a scribe or someone to type in the answers for the student as they verbally answer the questions
- Download and print the form for students who do not have access to a computer
- If applicable, meet with the teacher to ensure any needed vocabulary is inputted into the students' Augmented and Alternative Communication (AAC) devices