

Family Tip Sheets:

What Should I Know About Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)?

The Basics

Pre-employment transition services (or Pre-ETS) is a program that helps students with disabilities prepare for life after high school. Pre-ETS are offered to students between ages 14-22. This program is a partnership between high schools and the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. Topics covered in pre-employment transition services might include:

- Learning about jobs
- Learning about college or training programs
- Getting jobs or internships
- Practicing skills needed for jobs and/or living on their own
- Learning how to speak up for themselves

Who Can Help Me?

Talk to your child's teacher to see if Pre-ETS are offered in their school.

If Pre-ETS are not offered in your child's school, contact your local VR office. Find the office closest to you at this link: <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/ds/office-locator-trc-ttap.html>. Contact the state VR agency at (615) 313-4891.

What Questions Should I Ask?

- Does my child's school offer Pre-ETS?
- How often does the Pre-ETS provider come to the school?
- What skills are they working on with students?
- Do providers work individually with my child?
- Can the Pre-ETS provider come to my child's IEP meeting?
- How is Pre-ETS different than transition services my child is already receiving?

Myths

Myth #1: My child needs to be a VR client to participate in Pre-ETS.

Your child does not need to be a VR client to participate in Pre-Employment Transition Services. As long as your child has a disability, they will be eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services. You can show proof of disability through an IEP, 504 plan, or doctor's diagnosis.

Myth #2: Parents can't request Pre-ETS.

Anyone can request Pre-ETS. Family members, teachers, students, advocates, or others can contact their VR office to request Pre-ETS. Local school districts will work with VR to find a provider.

Myth #3: Pre-ETS costs money.

All Pre-ETS services are free.

Myth #4: Pre-ETS activities are the same for all students and all schools.

Pre-employment transition services should not be a set package for all students. Not all students will receive all pre-employment transition services. Some services are provided in group settings. Some will be individualized to students. Talk to your child's teacher and Pre-ETS provider to learn more about how Pre-ETS is offered in your child's school.