



Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential

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YOUTH TRANSITION SERVICES

Linking Employment Abilities and Potential (LEAP)'s Youth Transition Program provides year-round programs for youth development and employment. These programs combine on-the-job training at local businesses with community-based, work-related instructional activities.

GOAL: To assist high school students with disabilities in making a successful transition from high school to employment and adult community life

Job Link School-to-Work Transition

A year-round, school-to-work transition program that has been recognized by the National Youth Employment Coalition, Job Link operates in six high schools in the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. Combining on-the-job training at local businesses with community-based, work-related instructional activities, the program instills attitudes, behaviors, and skills needed to obtain and retain employment. Students discover their potential, plan for the future, and become contributing members of the community.

• Transition

Students with disabilities in grades 10 through 12 pursue a year-round, academic curriculum focusing on work readiness and life-skills training. Instruction takes place in small groups in school and community settings, with individual students' needs and goals emphasized. The curriculum includes community-based training, work experiences, and summer work. Areas addressed include individual assessment of strengths, interests, and needs; employability; development of communication and interpersonal skills; accessing community resources; planning for the future; career exploration; and youth development. ASL and Spanish translation services are available. Case management ensures coordination of support services and referral for disability benefits assistance.

- **Preparatory Experiences:** These activities include opportunities for increasing awareness of possibilities, for exploring career interests, career fields, and post-secondary education options, and for strengthening work-readiness skills, including computer skills.
- **Connecting Activities:** Students receive support in connecting to other organizations and services that can assist in the transition to the next phase of life, such as tutoring to improve academic performance, assistive technology to address accommodation needs, mentoring, and transportation. Connecting activities are designed to benefit each participant individually and take place both during and after the student's participation in the program.

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- **Community Based Work-Based Experiences:** Visits to work sites, job shadowing, and summer internships boost students' readiness for the workplace.
- **Youth Development and Leadership:** Through activities that build skills in self-advocacy and independent decision making, students develop self-esteem, interpersonal skills, and team-building capabilities.

- **Summer Work**

In small groups supervised by a job coach, students work up to 20 hours per week for six weeks in a community setting matched to their individual interests. These experiences allow students to increase their awareness of different kinds of jobs, and they permit staff to evaluate the students' skills, endurance, capacity to work, aptitude, and work quality and quantity, as well as issues that may affect their employability.

- **Employment Services**

Job development services may be provided upon graduation from high school. These services include career exploration, job shadowing, and instruction in job-seeking skills, as well as community-based work experiences, job placement, and follow-up services that promote job retention.

**Eligibility, funding and availability of these services vary by program.
Please call for more information.**