

# Transition Experience Program

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# Transition Experience Program



A pre-employment transition program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school

## What is TEP?

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The Transition Experience Program, or TEP, is a pre-employment transition program for students with disabilities who are in their last year of high school.

During the program, students take part in a 9-week course that includes:

- Daily job exploration at a worksite
- Counseling on post-secondary education opportunities
- Work-based learning experience
- Workplace readiness training

Students will receive continued job or post-secondary services after the conclusion of the 9-week course.

## Why choose TEP?

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The TEP program follows a business-driven approach that prepares students for the real world after high school. The goal of the program is for each student to transition successfully to competitive employment and/or post-secondary education.

Referrals for the TEP program come primarily from the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. But, the program works closely with local school districts, and Intermediate Units 20 and 21, to identify students for TEP.



## 9-Week Course

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Students participate in the TEP program from 8:00 am-2:30 pm five days per week during the 9-week course.

**For 6 weeks**, students will participate in group sessions to learn essential workplace skills, including: money management; time management; problem solving; accepting constructive criticism; following deadlines; conflict resolution; proper attire and appearance; interpersonal communication; employment applications; and mock interviews.

Students will also take part in hands-on work experiences alongside employees to shadow and learn specific occupations. This can include experiences in the following fields:

- Customer service
- Data entry
- Clerical
- Custodial
- Maintenance
- Information technology
- And more!

Students also receive post-secondary education counseling **for 3 weeks** to learn about enrollment at community colleges, technical schools, state universities and other institutions of higher education. Students will tour local post-secondary schools and hear from guest speakers, including staff and professors.

**Six weeks into the program**, each student will complete a Person-Centered Plan, which is a plan focused on the student's interests, skills and goals for his/her future.

Upon completion of the 9-week course, students will develop a portfolio that outlines the work experience and the post-secondary education they obtained through the program.