



ATTLEBORO ENTERPRISES INC

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION PROGRAM

IMAGINE WHAT ONE PERSON CAN DO

WHAT ARE PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES ?

Pre-Employment Transition Services, known as Pre-ETS, is a program funded by the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission for students ages 14-22 years of age, who are in high school, post-secondary education, or vocational training with a documented disability.

The Pre-ETS program has three main goals- to help students with disabilities explore, increase awareness, and prepare for post-secondary employment and education.

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE MASSACHUSETTS REHABILITATION COMMISSION

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) is a state agency dedicated to helping individuals with disabilities live and work independently.

Mission & Vision

The Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission promotes equality, empowerment and independence of individuals with disabilities. These goals are achieved through enhancing and encouraging personal choice and the right to succeed or fail in the pursuit of independence and employment in the community.

ATTLEBORO ENTERPRISES INC.

Attleboro Enterprises, Inc. (AEI) is a non-profit human service organization that supports over 200 adults with diverse developmental challenges through day habilitation, family supports, employment and community based day support services throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

AEI has been working with MRC to provide both adults and young adults with disabilities vocational opportunities in their communities for over 20 years.



Pre-ETS Program Manager

Nichole Gary

508.409.8426

ngary@attleboroenterprises.org

PRE-ETS: OUR FIVE CORE SERVICES

A lifetime of living with their disability has taught students what to expect at home and school. What happens when students go out into the world and begin working? Often, students are ill-prepared for the challenges that await them in the workplace. The Pre-ETS program is designed to help students gain the skills they need to transition out of high school and into the adult world. Whether they traverse postsecondary education or begin working right away, everyone will need to get a job eventually.

Our main goal as Pre-ETS providers is to work with students at their pace to accomplish their goals. We work with students 1:1 and in the classroom, as a group, to help them: identify their vocational goals, assess them for the workplace, and help them learn the skills they need to do more than just survive at work.

The Pre-ETS program can be individualized and adjusted to meet the needs of the student. Five core services make up the foundation for the program.



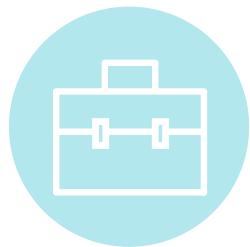
Job Exploration Counseling

Sample Programs & Services Offered: Mock Interviews, Resume Assistance, Job Search Engine Training, Understanding Job Descriptions



Workplace Readiness Training

Sample Programs & Services Offered: 411 For Disability Disclosure, Understanding My Paycheck & Other Financial Skills, Social Skills Training



Work-Based Learning Experiences

Sample Programs & Services Offered: Job Shadowing, Information Interviews, Paid Internships, Job Site Tours



Self-Advocacy

Sample Programs & Services Offered: Circles Relationship Training, Active Participant IEP Training, Human Rights Training, Social Media Safety



Counseling on Post-Secondary Education or Training

Sample Programs & Services Offered: Career Fairs, Information Interviews, College Tours, Exploration of Majors

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

There are two paths to receiving services through the Pre-ETS Program. The first is called Vocation Rehabilitation or VR, and the other is called Potentially Eligible.

Potentially Eligible is the fast-track to services. Referrals can be sent directly to the staff at AEI, and students can usually expect to start receiving services within days to weeks. Students can refer themselves, or their family or school can submit a referral for them. Students can enroll in the Potentially Eligible Program as early as 14 and remain in the program as long as they are in school and/or up until age 22.

There is no right or wrong way to navigate the Potentially Eligible Program. Students can receive as many services as they need. Some only need one class, and others need more.

The Potentially Eligible Model also allows us to serve multiple students in classroom settings, not just 1:1. The material covered in the Potentially Eligible Program should not duplicate what schools are already offering. Instead, our Pre-ETS classes are a supplement.

Students can also receive services through a **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Referral** from MRC. MRC recommends that students participate in at least one Potentially Eligible program before seeking more information about the VR Program. VR Students are guaranteed work readiness training, job exploration, and a short-term paid internship. Generally, VR referrals are for older students, approaching graduation, who may require individualized supports in the workplace.

Students can participate in Potentially Eligible before looking for a VR Referral. However, once students have completed the Pre-ETS program through a VR Referral, they are no longer eligible for Potentially Eligible Services.

DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES

Individuals interested in receiving Pre-ETS Services must have a documented disability. We're often asked, what qualifies as a documented disability? In order to be eligible for the program, students must have one of the following:

- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Medical documentation that clearly states a disability
- Psychosocial Report
- 504 Accommodation Plan with a diagnosed disability clearly stated

Another frequently asked question is about the types of disabilities our students have. Disability is a broad term and can cover mental health, physical disabilities, communicative disabilities, and learning disabilities, to name a few. In short, the answer is- we work with all of them. When we talk about disability, we also include individuals who may have social-emotion problems like anxiety and depression.