



PEATC's Transition to Adulthood Newsletter

What is Competitive Integrated Employment or CIE?

Working is important for many youth with disabilities. When looking at potential jobs, it's important that students with disabilities and their families understand the term Competitive Integrated Employment or CIE. CIE is when a person with a disability is employed at a job that is either part or full-time and pays the same wages as someone without a disability would earn for the same job, but at least minimum wage. The “Integrated” part of CIE means that the person works alongside people without disabilities in a job that is typically in the community. In addition, CIE means there are the same opportunities for benefits, like health care and retirement, as well as advancement for the person with a disability as there are for employees without disabilities in similar positions. Competitive Integrated Employment can also include self-employment and telework. Even youth with very significant disabilities can work in CIE if they get the right supports and accommodations.

In Virginia, if a person is eligible for vocational rehabilitation (VR) services, they can receive help with obtaining the supports they need to get a job through the [Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services \(DARS\)](#) and the [Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired \(DBVI\)](#). DARS and DBVI can provide various services and supports that help a person with a disability prepare for, engage in, and advance in Competitive Integrated Employment.

Helpful PEATC Resources:

Competitive Integrated Employment: Fears and Solutions	ENGLISH	SPANISH
Competitive Employment: A Real Job for Real Pay - Youth	ENGLISH	SPANISH
Competitive Employment: A Real Job for Real Pay - Youth Visual	ENGLISH	SPANISH

Check out additional PEATC resources [here](#)

PEATC Transition Happenings

YET Council

March 11, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.



Calling all youth aged 14-26 who are good self-advocates or want to learn self-advocacy skills. The **Youth Empowerment Transition (YET) Council** is looking for new youth council members to join in on conversations! The YET Council is a group that empowers Virginia students with disabilities, ages 14-26, as they begin their transition from High School to Adulthood with monthly discussions about empowering themselves and increasing their self-advocacy. Meetings are held on Zoom every 2nd Monday of the month.

If you know of a youth interested in joining the YET Council, [click here](#) to share and have them complete the interest form!

Transition University

February 12 - April 8, 2024

Join us for this FREE 5-week SELF-PACED online course that focuses on providing parent-friendly information to help make transition planning for students with disabilities. This course is designed for parents/caregivers of elementary, middle, or high school students who receive special education services but is open to everyone. The goal is to share factual information on transition services and to help make the transition from school services to the adult services world less confusing and more effective. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Connecting the Dots: Transition to Adulthood Edition – Wilson Workforce Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) Driving Program March 14, 2024 - 6:00 p.m.



Did you know Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) offers driving services to people with disabilities? Driving services at WWRC include an occupational therapy driving evaluation, learner's permit class, driver's training, and other driving-related evaluations. PEATC is excited to host Alison Shaner and Clay Huie from WWRC for this informational session to learn how this specialized program can benefit you and your family member. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Other Happenings

Navigating Medicaid and Medicare for Dual Needs Populations

March 6, 2024 | 11:00 a.m.

Many people with developmental disabilities get Medicaid and Medicare in their lifetimes. It can feel confusing and overwhelming to navigate them both. Join The Arc of Northern Virginia, who will have Lisa Humes, an insurance expert, to help you figure out how these programs work together, what additional benefits are available for these “dual eligibles,” and how to make the most of Medicaid and Medicare together. [REGISTER HERE](#)

Think College: Flexible Supports for College Success

March 6, 2024 | 3:00 p.m.

Join Think College as experts talk about supports that are available to college students with intellectual disabilities. Topics covered include supported education and campus resources, along with student perspectives from their own experiences using and accessing campus support services. [REGISTER HERE](#)

The Spectrum of Decision-Making Options in Virginia:

Supported Decision-Making to Guardianship and Everything in Between

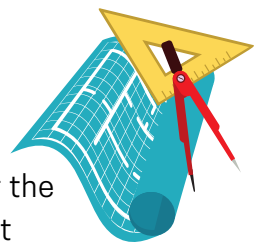
March 19, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Join DBHDS to learn more about the decision-making options available to those with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Virginia. Learn the difference between capacity, competency, and consent, as well as how people can get help making decisions from the least restrictive options (i.e. supported decision-making) to the most restrictive options (i.e. legal guardianship). [REGISTER HERE](#)

Blind Design - VA Tech School of Architecture and Design

April 3 - April 7, 2024

Learn how to design a building and make your own model while using alternative techniques to combat the visual challenges posed by the field of architecture. Hear from guest lectures, tour the campus, and learn emerging building techniques. For more information, contact Kathy Malone at (276) 642-7301 or at Kathy.Malone@dbvi.virginia.gov



Did You Know?

The Center for Advancing Policy on Employment for Youth (CAPE-Youth) is looking for youth and young adults with disabilities between the ages of 16 and 21 to participate as youth fellows in their National Working Group on Youth Transition. Applications and necessary paperwork (letter of recommendation and optional resume) is **due by 10:00 pm EST on Monday, March 18, 2024**. To apply, [CLICK HERE](#)

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