Transition through Discovery

Stage II: Career Planning

Encouraging students to explore a variety of career options and develop relevant skills empowers them to take ownership of their future. As they investigate pathways aligned with their interests and strengths, they begin to understand the qualifications and experiences needed for success. This stage promotes active engagement, builds readiness, and supports intentional planning toward career attainment.

Discovery Process

Career Planning, the focus is on aligning the strengths, needs, and interests of the student with potential vocational goals. Teachers implement discovery-based transition activities in the context of the classroom, the school, and the community within the curriculum framework. Career Planning brings exposure to assorted opportunities for community involvement and occupations. This stage typically focuses on middle school-aged students, but may be helpful for older students who are just beginning the Discovery Process.

Resources

- Using Alternatives to Traditional Vocational Assessment.
- Terms and Definitions.

Documentation of Interests and Employment Skills

The information in the Life Book becomes the foundation for a Career Portfolio. Additional information, targeted more specifically toward future employment, continues to be collected at home and school. Portfolios containing pictures and narrative information are developed for each student to be used to represent the student to a prospective employer. The Career Portfolio moves with the student from grade to grade and can be shared with the agency that will support the student as they transition into the post-secondary world of work.

Trainings

- Career Planning Part 1.
- Career Planning Part 2.
- Documenting Discovery.

Resources

- Essential Elements of Customized Employment.
- Career Portfolio Template: Part I.
- Career Portfolio Template: Part II.
- Conditions for Employment.
- Personal Best.
- Employment Related Experiences.

- Students with Disabilities and Employment Training.
- Planning for Your Transition from School to Adult Life.

Career Exploration

- Digital Summer Youth Employment Toolkit.
- Forage.
- CareerOneStop Career Videos.
- Career Clusters Career Search Gathering and Reflecting from Career Cluster Activities.
- Strategies for Connecting Students to VR.

Implementation Plan

A School Work Experience Plan can be used to structure career exploration. This may include virtual and community-based activities that expose students to real-world work environments and expectations.

Resources

- Work Experiences and Paid Employment.
- Individualized Career Planning for Students.
- In School Work Experience Plan Template.
- Family Guide.

Instruction and Supports for Vocational Activities

Students need to begin developing work-related skills such as social interaction, timeliness, adherence to schedules, task completion, and self-advocacy in the workplace. Teams should continue identifying the unique supports each student requires to succeed.

Resources

- Integrating Discovery into the Curriculum.
- Self Determination/Self Advocacy Checklist.

Real World Application

Meaningful school and home-based jobs, along with job shadowing opportunities, should be provided based on the student's Career Portfolio.

Resources

- What is Job Shadowing?
- Job Shadowing Template.

Connection and Collaboration with Outside Agencies

Introductions are made to staff and programs within the **Wyoming Department of Workforce Services** – **Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Division** to help prepare students and families for the next phase of career development. The VR Division offers services to eligible students with disabilities, supporting their employment goals through vocational training and transition-focused resources.