

Developing Pathways for Students in Foster Care

SUPREME COURT OF TEXAS CHILDREN'S COMMISSION

AUGUST 25, 2026





Welcome

What is Transition?

A coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that: Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;

- Is based on the individual child's needs, considering the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.
- [34 CFR 300.43 (a)] [20 U.S.C. 1401 (34)]

Who is a “student with a disability”?

Pre-ETS can only be provided to those who meet the definition of “student with a disability”:

- ▶ 14-22; and
- ▶ eligible for, and receiving, special education or related services; or
- ▶ *is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504; and*
- ▶ Is enrolled in a public, private, homeschool, or “recognized” post-secondary program.

Considerations while in High School

Predictors of Post- High School Success

- ▶ Students who participate in pre-vocational training, job search activities, job skills training & student internships are more likely to work while in school & gain employment after graduation.
- ▶ Students with 2 or more paid jobs during school are more likely to graduate.
- ▶ Students who participate in paid or non-paid work in the spring semester are more likely to be employed in the summer.
- ▶ Students who have a job at the time of HS are 5x more likely to engage in post-school employment during their first 2 years after HS.
- ▶ Students with one or more parents who participate in IEP meetings during the 11th and 12th grade are more likely to be engaged in post-school employment.

Career and Technical Education



Health Science Career Cluster

The Health Science career cluster focuses on planning, managing, and providing therapeutic services, diagnostics services, health informatics, support services, and biotechnology research and development. This career cluster includes occupations ranging from medical assistant, registered nurse, and physical therapist to forensic science technician and athletic trainer.

Statewide Program of Study: Nursing Science

The Nursing Science program of study focuses on occupational and educational opportunities associated with patient care. This program of study includes the practice of caring for patients, performing routine procedures such as monitoring vital signs, developing, and implementing care plans, maintaining medical records, and managing disease or pain.

Secondary Courses for High School Credit

Level 1	- Principles of Health Science - Principles of Nursing Science
Level 2	- Science of Nursing - Medical Terminology
Level 3	- Health Science Theory - Health Science Theory + Health Science Clinical - Anatomy and Physiology - Medical Microbiology - Leadership and Management in Nursing - Clinical Ethics
Level 4	- Pathophysiology - Pharmacology - Practicum in Nursing - Practicum in Health Science - Practicum in Health Science + Extended Practicum in Health Science - Career Preparation for Programs of Study - Career Preparation for Programs of Study + Extended Career Preparation

Work-Based Learning and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Work-Based Learning Activities	- Intern with a medical assistant at a community clinic, hospital, or assisted living facility - Conduct informational interviews with nurses in different departments and healthcare settings
Expanded Learning Opportunities	- Volunteer at community clinics, hospitals, assisted living and long-term care facilities - Participate in HOSA or SkillsUSA

Aligned Industry-Based Certifications

- Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) - Certified Personal Care Assistant - Licensed Vocational Nurse - Medical Assistant	- Nursing Assistant Certification (NAC) - Patient Care Technician - Phlebotomy Technician - Registered Nurse
---	---

Example Postsecondary Opportunities

Apprenticeships

- Registered Nurse Resident

Associate Degrees

- Medical Assisting
- Vocational Nursing

Bachelor's Degrees

- Registered Nursing
- Nursing Administration

Master's, Doctoral, and Professional Degrees

- Nursing Administration
- Nursing Science

Additional Stackable IBCs/License

- Certified Emergency Nurse

Example Aligned Occupations

Nursing Assistants

Median Wage: \$35,110
Annual Openings: 13,501
10-Year Growth: 15%

Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses

Median Wage: \$57,007
Annual Openings: 5,831
10-Year Growth: 17%

Registered Nurses

Median Wage: \$85,108
Annual Openings: 16,904
10-Year Growth: 17%

Data Source: TexasWages, Texas Workforce Commission. Retrieved 3/2/2024.

For more information visit: <https://hea.texas.gov/academics/career-and-military-research-and-technical-education/the-nursing-science-research.pdf>

Successful completion of the Nursing Science program of study will fulfill requirements of STEM endorsement if the math and science requirements are met or the Public Services endorsement.

TEA Texas Education Agency

Nursing Science

CTE Programs of Study | Texas Education Agency

- ▶ Predictors of Postschool Success
- ▶ 14 Career Clusters
- ▶ 65 Programs of Study
- ▶ Practicums & Work Based Career Opportunities

Military CTE Pathway

Industry Based Certifications

Project Search

Project SEARCH programs take place in a business setting where total immersion in the workplace teaching and learning and enables enrolled students with disabilities to develop competitive, marketable, and transferable skills that increase their employability. The program is conducted for a full academic year. Each VR customer may participate in three internship rotations during the academic year to explore a variety of career paths.

35 Project SEARCH sites in
Texas

Eligibility for Adult Transition Services

Any Student receiving Special Education services who:

- ▶ Failed three or more End of Course Exams (EOCs), or
- ▶ Received modified content under Foundation High School Program

- ▶ 50-minute webinar from TEA
 - ▶ Defining 18+ Adult Transition Services
- ▶ 30-minute quick overview webinar by Region 10
 - ▶ English
 - ▶ Spanish

What are Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)?

The Required Pre-Employment Transition Services:

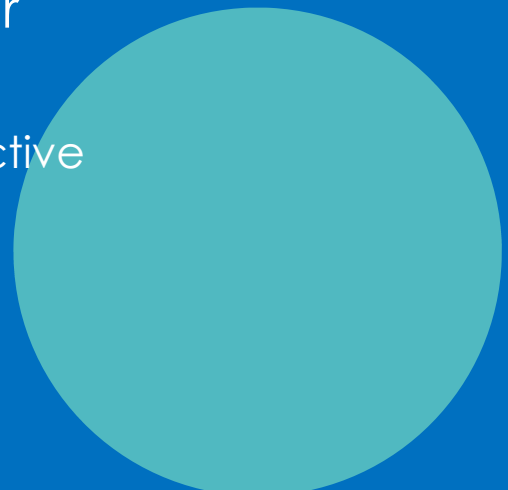
1. Career Exploration
2. Work-based learning
3. Counseling on post-secondary training opportunities
4. Job Readiness training, including social skills training
5. Self-Advocacy



Related services means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes, but is not limited to:

- Audiological Services
- Psychological Services
- Speech-Language Pathology
- Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy
- Social Work Services
- Counseling Services
- Orientation and Mobility Services
- Interpreting Services
- School Nurse Services
- Transportation and
- Other Services

Supporting Good & Services

- ▶ In addition to tuition/fees, the IPE can include other required supports:
 - ▶ **Textbooks and supplies** (purchased in the most cost-effective manner).
 - ▶ Assistive technology
 - ▶ Transportation
 - ▶ Room and board
 - ▶ Tutoring services
 - ▶ Interpreters
- 

Free College Application Week

13

A statewide initiative that helps Texas residents apply to public colleges at no cost.

When is it?

- ▶ It is the second full week of October (Monday-Sunday). Applications must be submitted through ApplyTexas by **11:59 p.m. CST on the last day** of Free College Application Week to qualify. Applications that are started but not submitted will not be eligible.

Who can participate?

- ▶ All Texas residents applying for undergraduate admission at Texas public institutions through ApplyTexas may participate.
- ▶ This includes first-time college students and transfer students. For details on residency status, see the Texas Residency Guidelines.
- ▶ Created by **Senate Bill 2231** during the 89th Texas Legislative Session

Considerations for Training after High School

On-the-Job Training

- ▶ A vocational training service where TWC-VR compensates an employer to train a VR customer.
- ▶ The customer must be hired by the business in a competitive integrated position.
- ▶ The employer trains the customer in both essential and non-essential job tasks.
- ▶ The customer receives equal pay and benefits as other non-disabled employees in similar roles.

HHS Direct Care Careers

A free online platform to connect people seeking work as a personal care attendance with employers delivering home and community-based care.

Prospective employees are able to create a profile that generates a resume with work preferences, work history, specialties, and more.

Training is available on the platform for employers and employees.

Texas | Direct Care Careers



Registered Apprenticeships

17

Eligibility

In Registered Apprenticeship programs, employers that sponsor the program decide what qualifications applicants should have. They set the minimum requirements and any extra skills or experiences the apprentices might need.

Minimum Qualifications

- ▶ Be at least 16 years old, but for some dangerous jobs, you might need to be 18.
- ▶ Have finished high school or have a diploma equivalent, but each program might ask for different things.
- ▶ For certain programs, you may need to be physically strong and have good endurance.

- ▶ [Find Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs - Texas Workforce Commission](#)
- ▶ <https://www.apprenticeship.gov/apprenticeship-finder>

APPRENTICESHIP OUTCOMES IN TEXAS

1,028

Number of registered programs

40,710

Number of active apprentices

\$28.26

Average hourly wage at completion of an apprenticeship program*

6,421

Number of apprenticeships completed

11%

Increase in the number of active apprentices

APPRENTICESHIP OCCUPATIONS IN TEXAS

Apprenticeship programs operate within exciting new industries and traditional industries such as:

- Advanced manufacturing
- Automotive
- Carpentry
- Construction
- Cybersecurity
- Electrical
- Engineering services
- Energy
- Finance and business
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Information technology
- Logistics
- Plumbing
- Service technicians

Vocational Rehabilitation Division: Apprenticeship

Texas State Technical College

19

▶ Affordable

▶ Industries include:

- ❖ Allied Health
- ❖ Computer & Information Technology
- ❖ Engineering & Manufacturing
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Transportation
- ❖ Aviation
- ❖ Construction & Maintenance
- ❖ Environmental & Safety
- ❖ Online programs

[TSTC | Texas State Technical College Website](#)

Local Community Colleges

20

In Demand Occupations

Multiple Options and Opportunities

Disability Student Services Directory

TWC Workforce Centers

IMPORTANT: The Job Seeker must disclose that they are or were in foster care. They will be treated as a priority customer.

[Texas Workforce Center Website](#)



**Enter your ZIP Code
to find a Workforce
Solutions Office in
your area.**



Find My Office



TWC Resources for Exploration

TWC Apprenticeship Training Program: Review criteria for basic eligibility.

- ▶ [Find Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs - Texas Workforce Commission](#)

My Next Move: Explore different apprenticeship options.

- ▶ [My Next Move](#)

Educational Resources

23

- ▶ SpedTEX
- ▶ Partners Resource Network
- ▶ Search AskTED for:
 - ▶ Foster Care Liaison
 - ▶ Transition and Employment Designee
 - ▶ Special Education Directors
- ▶ Foster Care & Student Success
- ▶ Transition Planning Guide for Students in Foster Care Receiving Special Education Services
- ▶ Special Education Acronym Quick Reference Guide
- ▶ Next Steps to Independence Skills and Strategies
- ▶ Overview of Special Education for Parents
- ▶ Special Education Full and Individual Initial Evaluation Timeline



**Laura Villarreal, M. Ed., CRC**

Program Specialist for Neurodevelopmental
Disabilities & Foster Care

TWC- Vocational Rehabilitation Services

512-541-6439

laura.Villarreal@twc.texas.gov

**Amy Reeves, M. Ed.**

Transition Consultant
Special Populations

Region 10 Education Service Center

972-348-1754

Amy.Reeves@Region10.org