How can an employment agency help?

An employment agency will work with you and your team to find you a job that fits well with your skills, abilities and interests. They will provide on-the-job training to help you learn your job.

How can the state’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) help?

Your counselor from the state’s Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a work expert. He or she will help you put together a plan to find a job, and get the training you need to do your job.

Preparing for life after high school takes time and energy ... and a coordinated team.

The School-to-Work Program brings together a team for you. The team is made up of governmental agencies, a private employment service, and your school and family. This coordinated team will work together with you to create your individual transition plan based on your skills, strengths, preferences, interests, and needs. Your plan will help you prepare for work and life after school. The services you may receive include continued academic instruction, daily living skills, career exploration, community-based work experience, and activities that will help you learn about good work habits and responsibilities.

Please note: Funding for the High School Transition School-to-Work Program as well as long-term supported employment services cannot be guaranteed for all students. Participants and their parents/significant adult(s) may need to learn about funding options.

For more information, contact:
Lori McWilliams
High School Transition Coordinator
Thurston County Developmental Disabilities Program
412 Lilly Road NE
Olympia, WA 98506
Phone: 360-867-2519
Fax: 360-867-2601
E-mail: mcwilll@co.thurston.wa.us

The School-To-Work Program: Putting your support team together

What will I do after school?

This High School Transition Program is coordinated by the Thurston/Mason County Developmental Disabilities Program
School-To-Work: Making it Work.... for you!

What can I expect?

One of your primary responsibilities is to stay in school. Providing input to your teachers and parents about your Individual Education Plan (IEP) is an important way to communicate what you would like to learn at school and through work experience.

Finding a job is a lot of fun and hard work. It will be important to make your job search and your new job a top priority. This means that there may be times when your job search or work schedule may conflict with a fun activity you had planned. Those helping you can offer assistance in creating a balanced life between work and play.

How can my family help?

It is important for your family to attend your IEP meetings, as well as other meetings with your team. Your parents can play a vital role in helping you find a job by sharing creative ideas, and exploring their own community, friends, family, and co-workers. People often find their first job through these connections. Your family can also help you apply for services that would be of help to you.

How can my teacher help?

One of your teacher’s primary goals and responsibilities is to help you become as independent as you can be based on your skills and abilities. They are also a great resource. They know a lot about you and they want you to succeed.

How can the state’s Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) help?

You must be a client with Washington State’s Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) to participate in the School-to-Work Program. Your DDA case manager will be a part of your team, and can also help you access services you may need. If you are not yet a client with DDA, there are people who can help you apply.