

Transition Resources

Auburn University or the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services does not endorse any of the resources. The resources shown “for purchase” can be purchased by any entity. All services requested as a pre-employment transition service must be approved by the local vocational rehabilitation, or VR, counselor, and in some instances, the state VR administration.

Alabama Works

(<https://www.alabamaworks.com>): is a website that offers virtual meetings and free online courses focused on getting jobs, gaining measurable skills and acquiring credentials in various areas. For those searching for jobs, this website includes data on the labor market to assist job seekers in making the best decisions when planning for a career. This site offers connections with career centers. They also offer other training that is beneficial to both VR and teachers.

Alabama's Network of One-Stop Career Centers

(<https://labor.alabama.gov/careercenters.aspx>): Alabama's network of One-Stop Career Centers and satellite offices are strategically located throughout the state. The website can help with locating your local center or satellite office. Services offered through the website and at the local centers are job development, occupational and educational training, vocational rehabilitation, veterans' services and unemployment insurance information. Employers work with local centers to locate employees with specific skills, and the goal is to consolidate the delivery of services at a single location. Many centers are electronically linked with partner agencies such as the Alabama Departments of Labor, Human Resources, Rehabilitation Services, Education, the two-year college system and others.

American College Testing, or ACT, Admissions Test

(<https://www.act.org>): is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping people achieve education and workplace success. ACT serves millions of students, job seekers, schools, government agencies, and employers in the US and around the world with learning resources, assessments, research and credentials designed to help them succeed from elementary school through career. On the ACT website, you can register for the ACT test, check your scores and access fee waivers.

Beautiful Rainbow Training

(<https://beautifulrainbowtraining.com>) Beautiful Rainbow Training and its sister program, Beautiful Rainbow Café, are projects of the Gadsden City School System located in Northeast Alabama. They are recognized as model training programs for students with significant cognitive disabilities by the Alabama State Department of Education. The Beautiful Rainbow Training curriculum and instructional video series is made possible by grants from the Stringfellow Health Fund, the Harland Jones Charitable Fund and the Longleaf Fund of the Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama.

Benefits Counseling Services:

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services offers free benefits counseling services to adult Vocational Rehabilitation, or VR, consumers who receive Social Security Disability Insurance, or SSDI, and/or Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, due to disability. Trained and nationally certified benefit specialists provide individualized information and written consultations about specific consumer benefits, including cash benefits and healthcare. They also provide information on how earnings from employment may impact those benefits. Written consultations are provided to the consumer, the VR Counselor, and any family members or other service providers/team members assisting the consumer in reaching their employment goal with appropriate written permission/Release of Information. You should check with your VR counselor to schedule the program.

CareerConnect

(<https://aphcareerconnect.org/about/>): is an employment information resource offered by the American Printing House for the Blind for job seekers who are blind or visually impaired. CareerConnect provides employment information, career exploration tools, and job seeking guidance for individuals with vision loss and the professionals who work with them.

College Preparation for Students with Disabilities Handbook:

(<https://www.suscc.edu/skins/userfiles/files/College%20Preparation%20for%20Students%20with%20Disabilities%20Handbook.pdf>): serves as a guide to help you: (1) navigate the college application process, (2) understand differences in laws for postsecondary institutions and high school, (3) receive accommodations in the college-setting, (4) advocate for yourself, and (5) understand additional, important resources. An electronic copy of the handbook is available upon request.

ENGAGE Alabama Transition App

(<http://www.engageal.com/>): is a free app intended to serve as a guide to Alabama students, family members and educators during the transition planning process. It is based on the requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA. As an Alabama student with a disability who may be turning 16 years old or entering the 9th grade and/or a family member of a transition-age student, the app can help prepare the student for the Individualized Education Program, or IEP meeting, where transition planning will be discussed. Individuals residing outside of Alabama may use this free app, but the information needed in other states may be different.

This app was originally designed by the Disability Rights Center of Kansas, a non-profit organization. The app was adapted by staff from the Alabama State Department of Education, the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, the Alabama Developmental Disabilities Council and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program. It is designed to meet transition planning needs in Alabama.

Explore Work

(<https://explore-work.com/>): is a training designed to help teens with disabilities plan for their future. The training is designed to help teens discover talents and jobs that may be a good fit for them, get experience and try out jobs, uncover education and training options to help them meet their job goals, learn about self-advocacy or how to ask for and get things they need, and get skills to help them succeed at work and school.

Fastweb

(https://www.fastweb.com/content/download_free_materials): provides information on college choice, scholarship scams, important dates for completing financial aid, test dates, financial aid, and student resources.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA

(<https://studentaid.gov>): is an office of the United States Department of Education which facilitates federal aid for students. The FAFSA website provides information about how financial aid works, the types of aid, resources to pay for college, loan repayment options, and eligibility for financial aid. You can also estimate what aid you may be eligible, using the Federal Student Aid Estimator.

GFCGlobal.org

(<https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/#>): for almost 20 years, the GFCGlobal.org program has helped millions around the world learn the essential skills they need to live and work in the 21st century by offering self-paced online courses.

Habits of Work

(<https://nextsteps-nh.org/resources/career-and-vocational-skills/habits-of-work/>): is a soft skills curriculum you can use by itself or with extended learning opportunities, internships and other work-related learning experiences. It teaches universal workplace habits that can benefit any person in any kind of career. Developed with a focus on students with disabilities, it can be a valuable resource for a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP) transition

plan. It's a pick-and-choose curriculum for use with a class or with an individual, face-to-face, via email, or other electronic connection.

ME! Lessons for Teaching Self-Awareness & Self-Advocacy

(<https://www.ou.edu/education/zarrow/resources/curriculum#choosing-goals>): includes lessons used to increase students' self-awareness and self-advocacy knowledge and behaviors. These lessons are downloadable.

Money Smart for Young Adults

(<https://www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/teach-money-smart/money-smart-for-young-people/grades-9-12.html>): The FDIC's Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum helps youth ages 12-20 learn the basics of handling their money and finances, including how to create positive relationships with financial institutions. The materials are fully scripted to allow you to begin teaching without having previous teaching experience or extensive subject matter expertise. Each of the eight instructor-led modules includes an instructor guide, participant guide, and PowerPoint slides.

The Money Smart for Young Adults curriculum is available for download or on CD.

National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative

(<https://transitionta.org/>): is a Technical Assistance Center co-funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). They provide information, tools, and supports to assist multiple stakeholders in delivering effective services and instruction for secondary students and out of school youth with disabilities.

Potential Magazine

(https://potentialmagazine.com/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=C2C%3A%20%2425%2C000%20Scholarship%20%2B%20In-Demand%20Careers): is a magazine that can help teens and their parents find tools and other resources that will help with navigating the journey into college, adulthood, and life. This magazine includes information related to college preparation and celebrates the accomplishments of high school students. Potential Magazine also provides a free Countdown-to-College (C2C) eNewsletter, including additional scholarship opportunities, ACT/SAT prep tips, and college prep info. They also provide The Countdown-to-College Workshop (available in Alabama only), which is a 90-minute workshop with a moderated panel format with representatives from 3-5 colleges and universities, that covers college admissions process, scholarship opportunities and ACT/SAT tips.

T-Folio

(<https://www.cctstfolio.com/>): is a free online transition portfolio tool for high school-age youth with disabilities. The curriculum provides facilitators with lesson plans and tips to help youth build self-determination and job-readiness skills through a series of interactive exercises. T-Folio curriculum aligns with Individual Education Program, or IEP, transition planning, DVR Pre-Employment Transition Service categories, and the CCTS Transition Services Flowchart.

Work Opportunity Tax Credit, or WOTC

(<https://www.doleta.gov/business/incentives/opptax/>): is a Federal tax credit available to employers who hire and retain veterans and individuals from other target groups with significant barriers to employment. Employers claim about \$1 billion in tax credits each year under the WOTC program. There is no limit on the number of individuals an employer can hire to qualify to claim the tax credit, and there are a few simple steps to follow to apply for WOTC. This program was created with the U.S. Department of Labor. Visit the aforementioned website to learn how to apply for the credit.

Workplace Readiness Skills Checklist

(<https://transitionta.org/topics/pre-ets/workplace-readiness-training/>): is a list of skills to consider when determining student needs, as well as measuring student progress in the pre-employment transition services required area of workplace readiness training, to include social skills and independent living.

Workplace Readiness Training Continuum and Guiding Questions

(<https://transitionta.org/topics/pre-ets/workplace-readiness-training/>): highlights some of the top workplace readiness skills that have been mentioned by employers to be successful. These guiding questions will help assess student readiness for the workplace.