Expanding CIL Capacity through Youth Transition Services: Collaborating with School Districts and Vocational Rehabilitation

Part 1

July 10, 2013
3:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M. EDT

Presenters:
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Earn & Learn

Transitioning Youth: Pathways to Graduation & Employment

A partnership of NH Vocational Rehabilitation and Granite State Independent Living
Background

- ARRA funded by NHDOE/NHVR
- Response to:
  - High dropout rate for SWD
  - Dis-engaged/poor attendance/lacking academic credits
  - Lack of preparation and awareness — for life ahead
  - General lack of soft skills
- No current program models to follow
- Extended Learning Opportunities are a key component of the model
Extended Learning Opportunity

ELO Means: *the primary acquisition of knowledge and skills through instruction or study outside the traditional classroom methodology, including, but not limited to*

- Apprenticeships
- Community service
- Independent Study
- Internships
- Online courses
- Performing Groups
- Private Instruction
Earn & Learn Approach

• Reengaging SWD — dropped out or at risk
  – Return to school — Graduation
• Variety of career exploration activities
  – Career information — Job placement
• Using the community as the classroom
• Gaining Academic Credits
• Assisting students in finding relevance
• Having the Earn & Learn experience be part of each student’s I.E.P. and transition plan
**E&L Approach, cont’d.**

**PHILOSOPHY — “Self-efficacy” (Albert Bandura)**

*The belief in one’s capabilities to organize and execute the courses of action required to manage prospective situations.*

**Self-efficacy influences**
- ✓ The choices we make
- ✓ The effort we put forth
- ✓ How long we persist
- ✓ How we feel

**Self-efficacy comes from**
- ✓ Mastery Experiences
- ✓ Social Modeling
- ✓ Social Persuasion
- ✓ Psychological Responses
Ingredients of the Approach

- Relationships
- Rigor
- Relevance
- Expectations — No Rules
- Addressing the needs of the whole child
- Involving students, families & school personnel in the process
- Connection to community
Structure of Approach

- 1:1 - Group format
- Students begin experience with hiring procedures
  - Application, I9, W4, Call Ins, etc.
  - E&L is a Job not a School
- Soft skills are the program glue
- Academics in the morning
- Work exposure on Fridays
- VR Counselors have critical role
- Community is filled with resources
- 3 sessions each year
- All students are VR customers
Partners

• NHVR
• Manchester School District
• Families
• Local Businesses
• Mayor of Manchester
• Local colleges and post-secondary institutions
• Community resources
• Politicians
Highlights/Successes

• Highlights
  – Group cohesion — affiliation
  – Feedback from stakeholders
  – Graduation

• Success Stories
Outcomes

- Engaged/reengaged 141 dropped-out/at risk — 22 active
- Created and completed 374 ELOs, with the obtainment in 258 full academic credits
- Supported and made possible the graduation of 44 students
- Created 82 work experiences for students
- Supported 8 students who went from their internship to employment
- Currently have 14 students placed in career jobs
Challenges/Issues

• Sustainability
• Refine Earn & Learn approach
• Successful reintegration to their school — thru IEP/Transition Plan
• Solidify/maintain partnerships
“Life isn’t about finding yourself, life is about creating yourself.”
~ Christy T
2011 Earn & Learn Graduate
Questions?
Wrap Up and Evaluation

Click the link below now to complete an evaluation of today’s program found at:  
https://vovici.com/wsb.dll/s/12291g53bd2
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