



# WASHINGTON TRANSITION PROGRAM

## Overview and Purpose

Despite national efforts, young adults with disabilities remain among the least represented demographic in the labor force (U.S. Department of Labor, 2020). One strategy shown to be effective in supporting positive post-secondary outcomes for these individuals is the coordination of school-based transition services with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR; Migliore et al., 2012; Poppen et al., 2017; Schaller et al., 2006). Under the reauthorization of the *Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act of 2014*, VR agencies are required to ensure pre-employment transition services are made available to all potentially eligible students with disabilities. However, there remains a need for schools and local VR agencies to engage in planning and capacity building activities that will further the implementation of coordinated school-based transition services, like pre-employment transition services (Honeycutt et al., 2015; Poppen et al., 2017). In Washington, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) estimates that each year there are about 60,000 potentially eligible students with disabilities who DVR must ensure access to pre-employment transition services if needed. Results from a 2019/2020 statewide needs assessment suggest about 50-74% of these potentially eligible students with disabilities need additional pre-employment transition services (Poppen et al., 2020). While efforts to meet these demands improve each year, work still needs to be done to address gaps in services.

The purpose of the ***Washington Transition Program (WTP)*** is to improve positive postsecondary outcomes for young adults with disabilities by *increasing the availability and accessibility of transition services* that are provided in coordination with the Washington Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (WA-DVR), including pre-employment transition services. To do this, we will incorporate what we know about *effective models of collaboration* and the *unique contexts of Washington's transition stakeholders* to improve service delivery. We will work with WA-DVR and school teams to facilitate a *capacity building and action planning process* for the coordination and delivery of services along the DVR continuum of services that results in increased access and improved availability of transition services for students with disabilities. **See the essential elements on the next page!**

## Pilot Sites

The Washington Transition Program (WTP) is working with 3-5 pilot sites with strong and/or emerging relationships between school and WA-DVR staff; and have a passion for creative problem solving and improving student outcomes.

- Each pilot site will participate in a multi-phase capacity building and action planning process facilitated by a WTP Technical Assistance Provider from Washington State University (WSU), that will include ongoing professional development throughout the school year, an annual showcase at the end of the school year, opportunities to learn from other pilot sites throughout the state, and individualized team supports.
- The goal of each pilot site is to increase the extent to which all potentially eligible students have access to and receive (when needed) coordinated pre-employment transition services and to increase VR eligibility and in-application services when appropriate.
- Pilot site teams will include at minimum, one or more school/site transition services expert(s), a DVR Regional Transition Consultant, a DVR High School Counselor Liaison, and administrative support from both a school/site and DVR local office.
- Each member of the team will need to be able to devote about 2-5 hours/week to the process, and administrative support for their participation in the project is required.

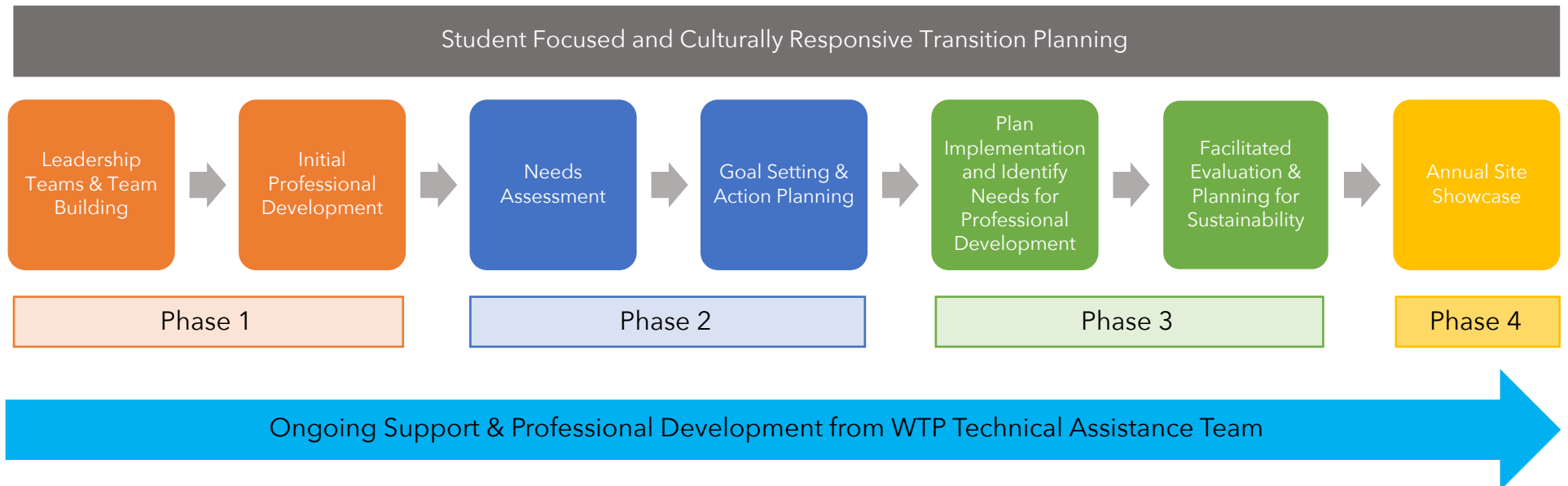
**Please contact [marcus.poppen@wsu.edu](mailto:marcus.poppen@wsu.edu) with questions!**



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## Essential Features of the Washington Transition Program (WTP)

The Washington Transition Program (WTP) will build local capacity to improve coordination between schools and Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and increase the availability and accessibility of coordinated transition services for youth and young adults with disabilities, including pre-employment transition services. Pilot sites will develop a local transition leadership team that includes key players involved in the coordination and delivery of school and community based transition services. These teams will be guided by a WTP Technical Assistance Provider from Washington State University (WSU) through team building, self-assessment, action planning and evaluation activities focused on improving the coordination and delivery of services, and will participate in cross-site learning. Key players must have a passion for creative problem solving and improving student outcomes, and support from administrators to join the team. It's estimated that each team member will need to devote about 2-5 hours/week to the process during the school year.



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## Draft Pilot Site Timeline (2021-2022)

Fall 2021	<p>Identify and form Site Transition Leadership Teams. Potential members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School/Site Transition Services Expert(s)</li> <li>• School/Site Career and Technical Educator</li> <li>• School/Site 504 Coordinator</li> <li>• School/Site and DVR Administrative Support</li> <li>• DVR Regional Transition Consultant (Non-school member)</li> <li>• DVR High School Transition Liaison (Non-school member)</li> <li>• WTP Technical Assistance (WTP TA) Provider (Non-school member)</li> </ul>
September or October 2021	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Team Meeting: Facilitated Workshop (~2-3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and purpose</li> <li>• Team building and understanding each other's roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Professional development on transition services, State and National policies that inform service delivery, and effective models of collaboration</li> <li>• Planning to complete an initial self-assessment using the Transition Self-Assessment Tool (TSAT)</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to Complete the TSAT according to plan</p>
October or November 2021	<p>2<sup>nd</sup> Team Meeting: Facilitated Workshop (~2-3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review roles and responsibilities, and team building</li> <li>• Review and revise initial results from TSAT for accuracy</li> <li>• Use guiding questions to identify gaps in services based upon the TSAT and explore factors that may be contributing to these gaps</li> <li>• Identify 1-3 specific gaps in services to address through increasing the availability or accessibility of coordinated DVR services</li> <li>• Develop an Action Plan that will address the gaps identified above</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resources needed to Succeed</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>
November or December 2021	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Professional Development Activities and Resources from WTP TA provider</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resource needs</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>
December 2021	<p>4<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Professional Development Activities and Resources from WTP TA provider</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resource needs</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>

## Draft Pilot Site Timeline (2021-2022)

January 2022	<p>5<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Potential Mid-Year Check-in with other Pilot Sites to share goals, and strategies</li> <li>• Professional Development Activities and Resources from WTP TA provider</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resource needs</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>
February 2022	<p>6<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Professional Development Activities and Resources from WTP TA provider</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resource needs</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>
March 2022	<p>7<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Professional Development Activities and Resources from WTP TA provider</li> <li>• Identify Professional Development and Resource needs</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p>
April 2022	<p>8<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Monthly Check-In (~1 hour)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, revise, establish next steps.</li> <li>• Planning to complete post-assessment using TSAT</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to carry out their Action Plan</p> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams complete TSAT post-assessment according to Plan</p>
May 2022	<p>9<sup>th</sup> Team Meeting: Facilitated Workshop (~2-3 hours)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review progress towards goals on action plan, and wrap up any loose ends</li> <li>• Review the TSAT post-assessment and reflect on ways activities throughout the year contributed to any changes in the availability, accessibility, or coordination of transition services</li> <li>• Planning for sustainability and continuing partnerships into the following year</li> <li>• Preparation for the annual Site Showcase</li> <li>• Closing Team Building Activity</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams work to prepare for Annual Site Showcase</p>
June 2022	<p>Annual Site Showcase! (Date/Time/Format TBD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reflect on Purpose and Intent Behind the Work</li> <li>• Cross-Site Sharing</li> <li>• Closure and Planning for the Future</li> </ul> <p>Site Transition Leadership Teams continue to work into the future to increase the availability, accessibility and coordination of transition services.</p>

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