



SPECIAL EDUCATION

2024-2025 Transition Talk #3 Navigating Employment

Cobb County School District Transition Services



@CCSDSpecialEd

Agenda

- Review meeting norms
- Review post-secondary options
- Explore supports available for employment
- Discuss how employment impacts benefits (i.e. SSI, Medicaid)
- Present district, state, and federal sources for more information



Learning Target(s)



- The participations will...
 - Understand the supports available for individuals with disabilities to transition into employment.
 - Have a basic understanding of how employment impacts benefits like SSI and Medicaid.
 - Know who to turn to for benefits support.
 - Learn about school district, local, and federal supports.

Meeting Norms

Please mute microphones.

Please type questions into the chat, we will address questions at the end of the meeting.

- *If we run out of time, we will make sure you are contacted and that your question is answered.*

The presentation will be posted to the Transition Services webpage within 48 hours of the Transition Talk. You will receive through email tomorrow, if you sign in.



Opening

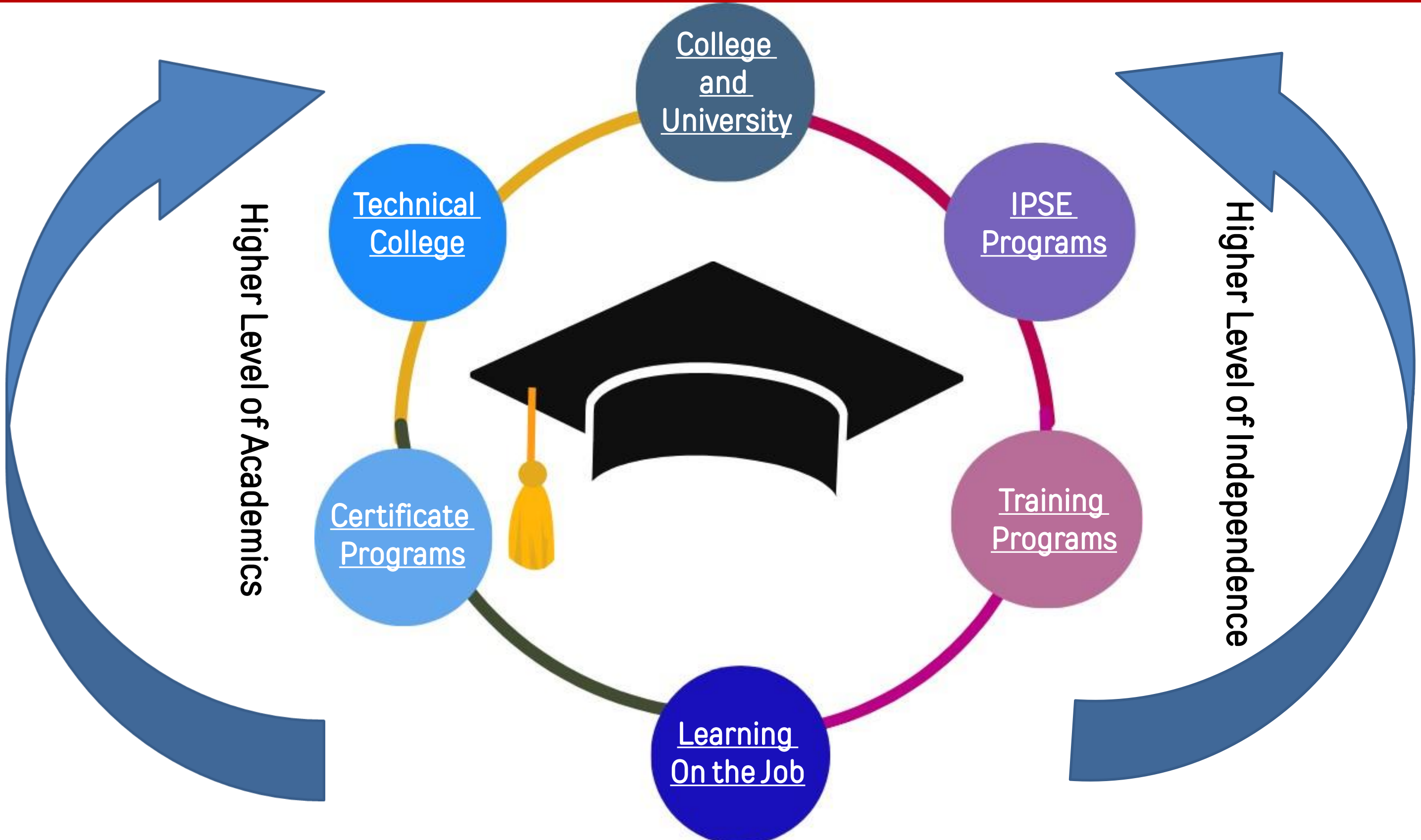
What are some reasons people work?



<https://wall.sli.do/event/w3U6cHtWCoTktSnnV4Wbek>



Post-secondary Education/Training Options



Finding the Right Path

What questions do you need to consider?

What are the options based on your high school diploma?

What job or career interests you?

What are you good at?

How long do you want to be in school?

Do you want to live at home or away from home?

How ready are you for work or college academics?

Do you need academic preparation, soft skills, and/or hard skills education?

Is cost going to be a factor in your path?

Transition Planning

Beginning with the IEP in which the student will turn 14 (so when most students are 13), a Transition Plan is added to the IEP.

- Your student's case manager will begin discussing your student's preferences, interests, strengths, and needs for the future.
- They will get input from the student, but they may also get input from you or other teachers.
- The information the case manager acquires and the student's course of study in high school will inform the post-secondary goals that the case manager drafts for the IEP meeting.
- The post-secondary goals and the skills the student needs to build during the IEP year will inform the annual Transition goals and activities the case manager drafts.



Learning on the Job

Considerations

- Do you want to start your own business?
- Do you want to get paid while training?
- Do you want to go straight to work and work your way up in a company?
- Do you need a job coach to help you start a new job?



What is Competitive Employment?

The individual is in a setting with non-disabled peers and earns at least minimum wage. There are the same opportunities for benefits and career advancement. Work is performed without (or very little) support.

What is Supported Employment?

Traditional Supported Employment

- Intensive job coaching
- Ongoing Supports
- Extended Supports

Customized Supported Employment

- For individuals with the most significant disabilities
- Negotiated to meet the specific abilities of the individual and needs of the employer



What is IPS Supported Employment?

Individual Placement and Supports (IPS)

- An evidence-based approach to supported employment for people who have a mental illness.



What are Ongoing Supports?

Ongoing support may include:

- Periodic job coaching on/off the job
- Regular observation of the individual
- Contact with family or other support providers and stakeholders to help maintain job placement
- Identification of natural supports on the worksite
- Assistive work technology provided

Reasonable Accommodations

Modifications that help an individual with a disability have an equal opportunity to get a job and perform the job successfully.

- Physical Changes
- Accessible and Assistive Technology
- Accessible Communications
- Policy Enhancements

What Agencies Support Work?

Georgia Vocational
Rehabilitation
Agency



Department of
Behavioral Health
and Developmental
Disability



Preparing Students for Work

GVRA provides Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) while students with disabilities are still in school.

The school district partners with GVRA and Pre-ETS providers to provide opportunities for some students to participate in Pre-ETS at school.

Transition Resource Specialists also provide information about Pre-ETS opportunities during school breaks.

GVRA does not help students find part-time jobs for after school and summer breaks.

Pre-Employment Transition Services

Pre-employment Transition Services are group services.

There are five areas in which students may receive Pre-ETS instruction.

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Work Based Learning



Transition From School to Work

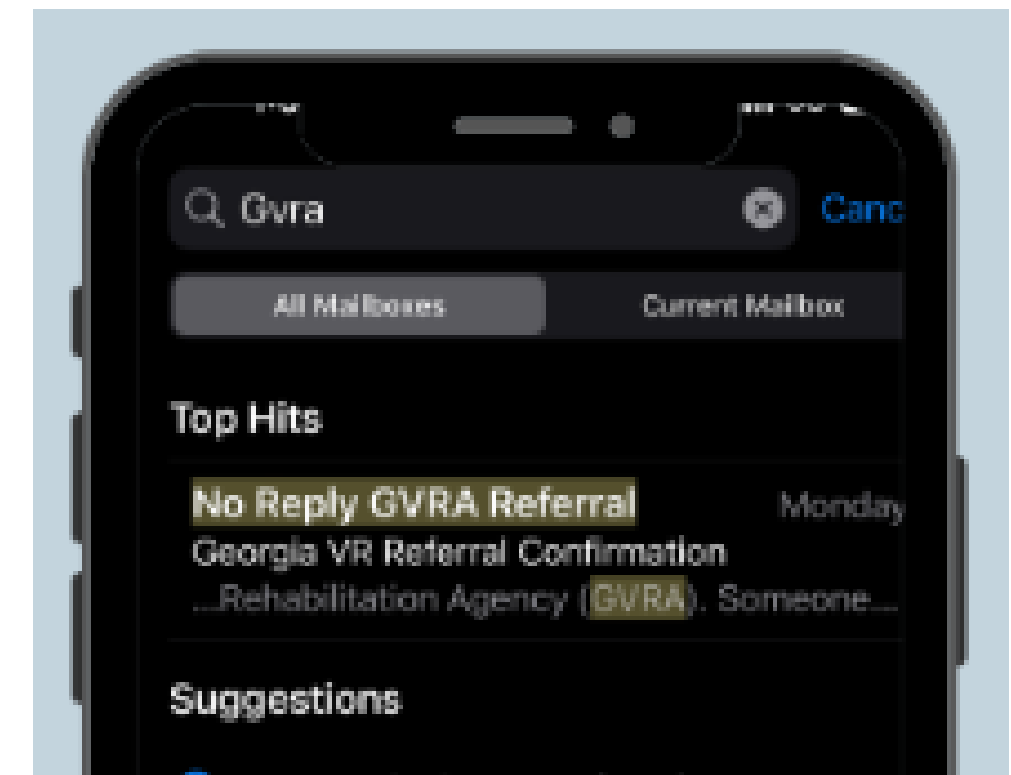
After an intake meeting and/or becoming a GVRA client, these are things that might happen:

- Vocational Counseling
- Vocational Evaluation
- Services, equipment, or technology to help an individual meet their employment goal
- Assistance with job searching and application
- Assistance with job/career training and education

Applying for GVRA Services

- Individuals typically apply for GVRA services during their last year of high school.
 - Starting October 1, 2024, referral for GVRA is online: <https://referral.gvs.ga.gov/>
 - You should be contacted for an intake meeting within four days of submitting a referral.
 - If you are going to be contacted by email, be on the lookout for the email to go to your spam folder.
 - Documents that are typically required during the referral or intake process include:
 - Documentation of Disability
 - Social Security Card
 - Proof of Identity

**Assistance in the application process can be obtained by contacting your Transition Resource Specialist.*



Myths About Working and Benefits

Working will automatically end my benefits.

- While there is the possibility of a reduction in benefits, both SSI and SSDI benefits have programs to help individuals who want to test their ability to work and to transition to work without losing benefits.

Even earning a small amount of money will stop my benefits.

- Both SSI and SSDI allow a certain amount of earnings each month. The reduction of benefits is not dollar for dollar for individuals who fall above the minimum earnings.

I'll lose my Medicaid/Medicare if I start working.

- As long as income stays below the GA income level (currently \$35,761), Medicaid coverage can continue.
- Medicare coverage can continue for over seven years after a Trial Work Period for individuals using the Ticket to Work program.

It is too complicated to navigate the system, so I am better off not working.

- Call the ticket to work helpline at 866-968-7842 for a referral to a Benefits Navigator.

Cobb County School District Resources

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Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a benefits program that provides monthly payments to children and adults with disabilities and limited or no resources.

How Do I Apply?

- Call 1-800-772-1213 for an appointment.
- Visit Cobb County Social Security Administration Office
- Apply at www.ssa.gov/apply/ssi

Eligibility Requirements

- The adult must have a physical or mental disability that:
 - Is severe and creates functional limitations.
 - Prevents gainful employment.
 - Has lasted for more than 12 months and is expected to continue.
- Adult income is limited to less than \$1500.

Frequently Asked Questions

- How long does the process take?**
 - Depending on the need for appeals, the process can take anywhere from three months to two years.
- What kind of documentation do I need?**
 - If you make an appointment or apply online, you will receive a list of documents.
 - The list may include: social security card, birth certificate, bank statements, medical report or eligibility report, your child's IEP, and lists of people who work with your child.

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NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver

The New Options Waiver (NOW) and the Comprehensive Supports Waiver Program (COMP) offer home- and community-based services for individuals with intellectual disabilities or other closely related conditions, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism or neurological problems.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Eligible for Medicaid.
- Have a diagnosis of an intellectual disability and/or a closely related condition.

Required Documentation to Apply:

- Application
- Psychological Report (Including IQ scores, adaptive scores, and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder assessments if applicable)
- Proof of Citizenship
- Copy of Social Security Card (or number)
- Copy of Medicaid and/or Medicare card
- Copy of Social Security benefit information
- Copy of guardianship documents (if applicable)
- Most recent IEP
- Signed Notice of Privacy Practices

NOW/COMP Waiver Program Services:

- Adult Dental Services
- Adult Nursing Services
- Adult PT and/or OT
- Adult Speech Therapy
- Behavioral Supports
- Community Access Services
- Community Living Support Services
- Community Residential Alternative Services
- Financial Supports
- Pre-Vocational Services
- Respite Services
- Specialized Medical Supplies
- Support Coordination
- Transportation Services

Additional services may be provided

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Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)

The purpose of the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) is to help individuals with disabilities get and maintain employment.

Families and Students Need to Know...

- GVRA services are free to eligible individuals and are designed to support varying needs, from job placement services to job readiness assistance or post-secondary training.
- Eligibility for services is based on factors such as the individual's disability and its impact on their potential employment.
- GVRA provides benefits counseling to help individuals understand how income may impact benefits like Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.
- GVRA may be able to assist with funding for post-secondary education or vocational training.
- Referral to GVRA services typically takes place during a student's last year of high school.
- Application for GVRA services is completed online at: <https://referral.gvs.ga.gov/>. Application assistance and more information can be provided by contacting the Transition Resource Specialist that support's your high school. *Check spam folders after applying online.

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Benefits Navigation

Benefits Navigators are free and helpful to families to make sure benefits aren't lost.

What is the Benefits Navigator Program?

- The Benefits Navigator Program helps individuals and families understand how earned income will impact SSI benefits (and other State and Federal benefits).
- Benefits Navigators can help determine how to maximize earnings and keep benefits.

Who is the Benefits Navigator for Cobb County?

BDI
Bobby Dodd Institute
2120 Marietta Blvd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30318
978-388-0071

Questions a Benefits Navigator Can Answer

- How much can someone make before losing their SSI payment?
- How will savings/working affect the SSI payment?
- What work incentives are available?
- If my child has SSI, what should I expect when they turn 18?
- Who do I contact if I think the SSI amount is not correct?
- Who do I contact if I need to update information for SSI?

SCAN ME!

If you would like to connect with the Transition Resource Specialist that supports your school, please consult the Locations list on the Transition Services website: <https://www.cobbk12.org/page/38587/special-education-transition-services>

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NOW/COMP Medicaid Waiver

Websites

- DBHDD's Intellectual & Developmental Disability Services
- Parent to Parent of Georgia

QR Code

To access an electronic version of this document, scan the QR code below.

SCAN ME!

More Information

- DBHDD NOW/Comp Waiver Fact Sheet
- Constructing a Good Life Through Understanding the NOW and Comp Waivers

Application

[Online NOW/Comp Waiver Application](#)
[NOW/Comp Waiver Application](#)
[NOW/Comp Waiver Release of Information](#)

Support

These agencies can provide help for families completing the NOW/Comp Waiver Application.

- Special Needs Cobb
- Parent to Parent of Georgia

It may be necessary to request records to be submitted with your application. Go to the Cobb County School District Special Education website and scroll to "Records and Transcripts" for instructions on accessing records.

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Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

Pre-ETS are group services designed to equip students with disabilities with the skills and knowledge to transition to post-secondary life successfully. These may be provided in the school setting or during school breaks.

The five main areas covered by Pre-ETS are:

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Work-Based Learning

The Bud McCall Grant

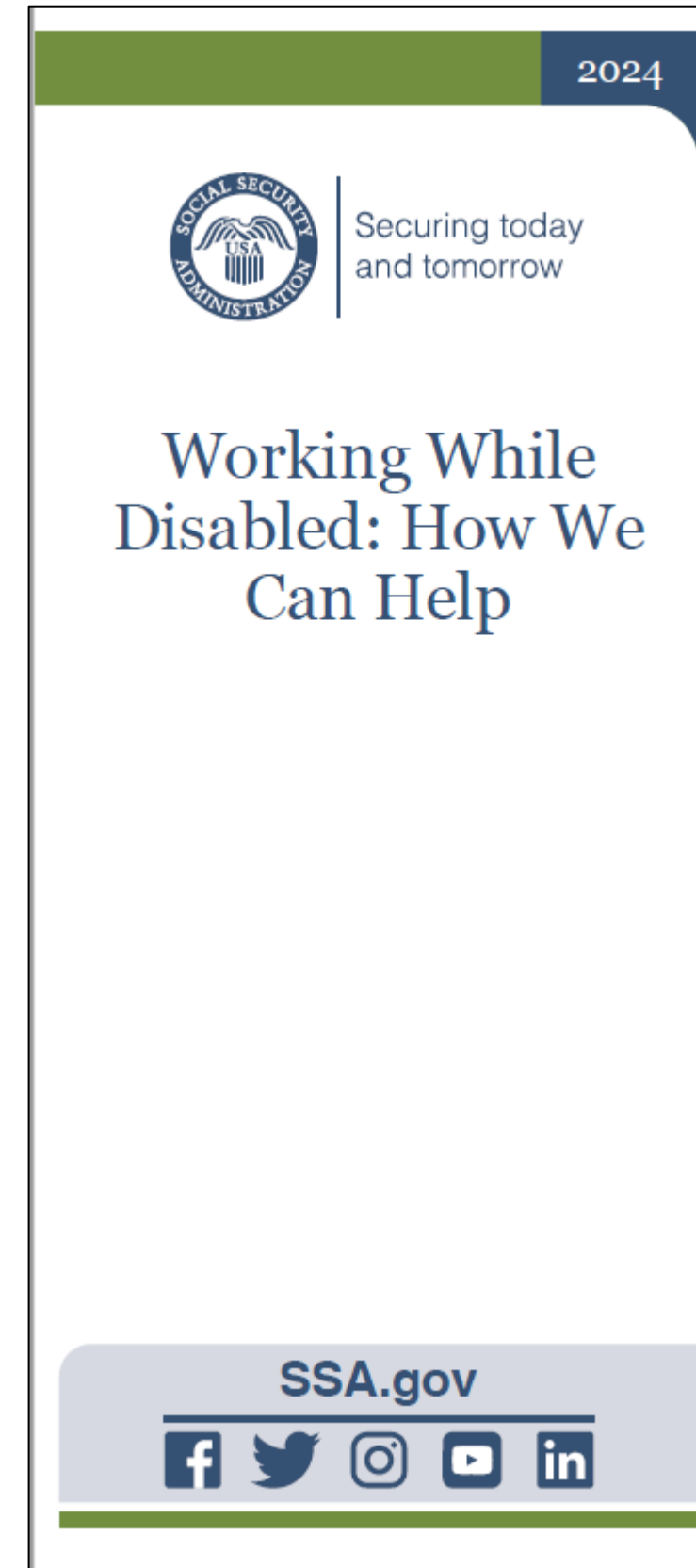
The Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant is a financial aid program specifically for GVRA clients seeking a college or university education to gain employment. The grant can cover expenses for up to five years and is paid after other financial aid sources like the Pell Grant or scholarships.

It can provide:

- Tuition: up to \$7,395 per year.
- Maintenance (room, board, and meals): up to \$9,430 per year.
- Books: up to \$900 per year.

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Local and Federal Resources



Transition Talk Series

When the Bus Stops Coming

- Next: Accessing the Community

This session is designed to empower individuals with disabilities and their families with knowledge about community access options. We will explore practical transportation resources, including public transit, paratransit services, and private options. Additionally, we will discuss meaningful ways to participate in community life, such as volunteering, recreational programs, and community access programs. Join us to learn about tools and strategies that support increased independence and connection in the community!

The poster features the logo for Transition Services (a red circle with a white 'C' and a graduation cap) and the text 'TRANSITION SERVICES EDUCATION. EMPLOYMENT. INDEPENDENCE.' at the top. Below this, it says '2024-2025 Transition Talk Series' in red, followed by the title 'When the Bus Stops Coming' in italics. The poster lists five sessions in yellow rounded rectangles, each with a small image and text: 1. September 5, 2024: Navigating Post-Secondary Education (image of a school building); 2. October 3, 2024: Post-secondary Training Options (image of people in a workshop); 3. November 7, 2024: Navigating Employment (image of a person at a computer); 4. January 9, 2025: Accessing the Community (image of a white van); 5. February 13, 2025: Living Independently (image of a person in a yellow shirt). At the bottom, there is a QR code, the text 'TRANSITION TALKS ARE FROM 5:30PM-7:00PM', and 'USE THE QR CODE OR LINK IN THE TITLE TO JOIN THE MEETING. NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED.' A red footer bar contains the text 'FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT KRISTIN.PEWITT@COBBK12.ORG'. The logo for Special Education is in the bottom right corner.

Question Time

What questions can we answer?



Closing

Please complete the [survey](#) to help us better support students and families with the transition process.



<https://forms.office.com/r/MRbV4hgnWz>