Effective Strategies to Build Collaborative Partnerships

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Ask the Expert
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Purpose and outcomes

Purpose
Learn about and share strategies for improving collaboration at the local level

Intended outcomes
Participants will:
• learn about the key components of collaboration
• gain access to tools and resources that facilitate local collaboration
• have opportunity to ask questions now and during next two weeks
Building partnerships - interagency collaboration as key component in secondary transition
Why is collaboration a key component? It’s good for students!

– When students with disabilities access collaborative services during high school, they are more likely to experience positive post-school outcomes.

– Collaboration between partners creates a seamless process for students and their families.

– When we work together it promotes positive post-school outcomes for students with disabilities in the areas of education and employment.
Effective Interagency Collaboration leads to collaborative impact
How do we build collaborative partnerships?

• Collaboration between schools, VR agencies, and other partners is effective with a clear and compelling rationale for staff to work across agency lines (Fabian & Luecking, 2015).

• Collaboration is effective when there is a direct focus on outcomes for students (Luecking & Luecking, 2015).

• A clear, purposeful, and carefully designed process, including communication structures across agencies and programs (Mazzotti & Rowe 2015)
WIOA and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

• We’ve become partners in a system that is by design increasingly more integrated.
• More than ever we begin with the end in mind.
• The use of Pre-ETS is intended to provide students with disabilities opportunities for exploring careers and participating in career-related activities that require more efficient collaboration.
Impacts Associated with WIOA Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act

• Some educational agencies used to provide services to students transitioning from high school, and then refer those students to VR agencies once they exited high school.
• Educational and VR agencies need to collaborate and coordinate the provision of pre-employment transition services and transition services.
• Transition goals are closely aligned.
• Workforce development partners are also valuable to the transition planning process.
Building a structure around your partnerships/collaboration
First steps

• Review the interagency agreement between the State educational and VR agencies
  – What has been agreed upon at the State level?
  – How does the agreement and responsibilities inform your work at the local level?
  – Is there a local interagency agreement? If so, how is that informing your work?

• Gaining Administrative buy–in
  - Administrators set the tone for a local high school
  - VR supervisor support of the partnership is key
Developing the day-to-day logistics of partnering

For every minute spent in organizing, an hour is earned.

— Benjamin Franklin
Tips for partnering with schools

• Create a schedule
• Send reminders
• Build trust & follow through: Do what you say you are going to do
• Have a Point-of-Contact
• Make yourself “visible” in the school
Tips for schools to partner with agencies

• Assist in scheduling and gaining access to students
• Make time for agency staff
• Understand agencies are dependent on schools to build connections with students and families
• Provide a dedicated space for agency staff members to meet with students
Resources

- Start of the School Checklist for Educators
- Start of the School Checklist for VR
- Guide for Collaboration: ED & VR
Develop A Referral Process
Tips for VR and Partner Agencies

• Develop a shared tracking form
• Communicate benefit of VR and partner agencies to schools – share easy-to-understand information about services
• Share student success stories
• Be a valuable resource for educators and assist in making connections to other partner agencies
Tips for schools

• Understand VR agencies are dependent on education to make connections to students and their families
• Have a champion for VR and partner agencies in the school
• Assist with securing referral documentation
• Provide support and coordinate a shared tracking system
Identifying strengths and gaps
Resource mapping

• What is currently available?
• Defining the availability of services
• Developing partnerships is key
• Processes help realize vision and meet goals
Map existing services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-ETS</th>
<th>School provides service (add an X if Yes)</th>
<th>Grade level (Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Summer)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment Service: Job Exploration</strong></td>
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<td>Career awareness</td>
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<td>Career interest inventories</td>
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<td>Career student organization</td>
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<td>Identification of career pathways of interest to student</td>
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<td><strong>Employment Service: Work-based Learning</strong></td>
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<td>Apprenticeships</td>
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<td>Career mentorship</td>
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<td>Career related competitions</td>
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<td>Informational Interviews</td>
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<td>Job shadowing</td>
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<td>Paid internships</td>
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<td>Unpaid internships</td>
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<td>Service Learning</td>
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Identify your partners

Directions: Identify key partners and what they bring to the community mapping process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POTENTIAL PARTNER</th>
<th>WHAT DO THEY BRING?</th>
<th>WHAT IS THEIR SELF-INTEREST?</th>
<th>STEPS TO ELICIT INVOLVEMENT</th>
<th>ROLE IN THE PROCESS</th>
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Resources

• Resource Mapping Guide Toolkit: https://transitionta.org/rescmaptoolkit

• Aligning Pre-Employment Transition Services Resource Mapping Tool Mapping tool: Pre ETS Mapping Tool

• Resource Mapping Tool
Develop a Plan
Local Partnership Plan

Local Team Action Plan

Seamless Transition Team:
Date:

For each goal, develop 2 to 5 action steps. List the lead agency and critical partners for each action. Then identify the timeline, technical assistance/training needs, and performance measure for each action.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Step</th>
<th>Lead Agency</th>
<th>Critical Partners</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Technical Assistance/Training</th>
<th>Performance Measure/s</th>
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Questions
NTACT/WINTAC invites you to...

- Explore our websites: [www.transitionta.org](http://www.transitionta.org)
  - [www.wintac.org](http://www.wintac.org)
  - [http://www.wintac.org/distribution-list/signup](http://www.wintac.org/distribution-list/signup)
- Contact us: ntactmail@uncc.edu
Thank you!!

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