

# Early Start to Supported Employment Pilot FACT SHEET

## PURPOSE:

Over the past few years, interagency collaborative efforts in the transition process have yielded some positive results. However, many students with significant disabilities experience difficult and unsuccessful transitions to adult service options. In response to this, The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Education have agreed to pilot a project to align resources that would prevent a gap in services to students needing supported employment services upon leaving school and entering the workforce.

The "Early Start to Supported Employment" is intended to demonstrate the feasibility of a more seamless transition for students leaving school and entering the adult workforce. The outcome of paid work with post-school support in place before leaving school is the primary goal of this pilot. There is a commitment from each agency to conduct this pilot over multiple years in order to learn how to more effectively support successful employment outcomes for students requiring long-term adult services. Early Start will begin in the spring of 2005 for students leaving the school system in the summer of 2006.

## PROCESS:

**Student Selection:** Students must be:

- Already determined eligible for DDDS services
- Entering their last year in school
- Motivated to work and possess knowledge of work preferences with some independence in work situations
- Supported by family in obtaining long-term employment while still in school

**Adult Provider Criteria:** Provider must be:

- A DDDS Certified Provider, and
- Hold a current contract with DDVR for Supported Employment

## Pilot Procedures/Timeline:

Spring 2005:	Schools and agencies identify students for participation Students and families agree to participation and select adult service provider
Summer 2005:	Supported Employment Assessments completed prior to student's last year
Fall/Winter '05/'06:	Job Development authorized
Remainder of School Year:	Job Development Process completed ICAP administered and rate determined
Sept after Graduation:	Follow-up funding provided to support employment success

For more information, or to participate in the Early Start to Supported Employment pilot, contact:  
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