**AN INTRODUCTION TO YOUTH TRANSITON PROGRAM**

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| **WHAT IS YTP?** |

The Youth Transition Program (YTP) is a comprehensive transition program for youth with disabilities operated collaboratively by Vocational Rehabilitation Services (**VR**), the Oregon Department of Education (**ODE**), the University of Oregon (**U of O**), and local school districts statewide in Oregon.

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| **WHO CAN RECEIVE YTP SERVICES?** |

YTP serves youth with disabilities who need additional support, beyond the services typically offered though the general or special education program, to achieve their secondary and post secondary employment and continuing education goals.

YTP youth are representative of all youth with disabilities nationally with respect to gender and primary disability categories; however, the majority of youth in the program experience a number of additional individual, family, or school system barriers such as poor academic skills, limited social and independent living skills, negative job experiences, and low levels of family involvement or support. Over 50% of youth currently served through the YTP live in low income families.

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| **WHAT SERVICES DOES YTP PROVIDE?** |

The purpose of the Youth Transition Program is to provide a new pattern of services to students with disabilities beginning when they are still in high school and continuing into the early transition years. In each participating school district, YTP services are provided jointly by a Transition Specialist and a local Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. Students participating in the YTP receive:

The YTP provides services to youth beginning during the last two years of high school and continuing into the early transition years after leaving high school. All students in the program receive a comprehensive pattern of service designed to address a broad array of transition needs including:

All YTP students become clients of OVRS, but a young adult with a disability that is an impediment to employment does not have to be served by YTP in order to become a client of OVRS.

* Individualized planning, focused on post school goals and self determination, and help to coordinate school plans with relevant community agencies
* Instruction in academic, vocational, independent living, and personal social skills and help to stay in and complete high school
* Career development services including goal setting, career exploration, job search skills, and self advocacy
* Emphasis on paid employment such as connections with local employers, development of school-based businesses, on the job assessment and training
* Support services such as individualized mentoring and support or referrals for additional specific interventions
* Follow-up support for one year after leaving the program to assist in maintaining positive outcomes in employment or post secondary settings.

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| For more information about YTP and to see if you qualify, contact your local YTP specialist or Special Education Case Manager.  (put local contact information here) |