

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Linking Learning to Careers

Program Overview

Linking Learning to Careers (LLC) is an exciting new opportunity to improve career and college readiness for Vermont high school students with disabilities. This 5-year (2016-2021) statewide initiative will build on effective career exploration and employment services already provided to students and engage them in additional experiences, called enhanced services, that will help them to successfully transition from high school into adulthood. The enhanced services include college and career exploration opportunities, work-based learning experiences, and assistive technology supports. Each student will develop an LCC Plan that reflects their aspirations and experiences, and guides informed choices regarding their future.

Staff and Partners

LLC Staff & State of Vermont Partners	Non-State of Vermont Partners
LLC Career Consultants (11)	Community College of Vermont
LLC Assistive Technology Specialists (2)	Vermont Association of Business, Industry and Rehabilitation (VABIR)
LLC Director and Assistant Director	Vermont High Schools, Career and Technical Education Centers
VocRehab Transition Counselors	Mathematica Policy Research (research evaluator)
Vermont Agency of Education (AOE)	TransCen, Inc. (technical assistance provider)

Recent Developments and Accomplishments

After a year of planning, staffing, training, contracting, promoting, outreach, and initial partner development, LLC enrollment is in full swing. Milestones and accomplishments include:

- Convening an LLC Implementation Team to provide DVR oversight and guidance for the project;
- Implementing a project Pilot, enrolling 2-3 students in each district to test and refine outreach methods;

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation – Linking Learning to Careers

- Establishing work groups to determine transportation enhancements, and develop essential tools for the LLC project;
- Creating a set of resources to support full enrollment including an Implementation Guide, consent form, brochures, letters, marketing material, scripts, FAQs, and other documents to facilitate service delivery;
- Visiting each of the DVR district offices to meet full local youth teams;
- Contracting with Mathematica Policy Research for overall project evaluation, TransCen for technical assistance and monitoring, and Community College of VT for postsecondary educational opportunities and coordination;
- Conducting monthly professional development days for LLC staff;
- Designing and conducting initial fidelity monitoring visit with TransCen.

Future Directions

Enrollment activities continue, with the majority of recruitment planned for year two. Service provision will also gain momentum in 2018 as more students come onboard, and post-secondary options and transportation funding are utilized. Data collection will begin to reach a critical mass, allowing for more and better formative evaluation analysis and technical guidance by Mathematica and TransCen. With this information, we will be able to make on-the-fly adjustments to service delivery, work more efficiently with students, collaborate with schools, and improve post-secondary and work based learning opportunities.

Results

Over 100 Vermont high school students have been enrolled in 2017. Full enrollment is planned for 2018, with the goal of providing enhanced services to 400 students until the program ends in 2021.

LLC will also participate in a 5-year rigorous evaluation study supported by Mathematica Policy Research. The results of the evaluation will provide qualitative and quantitative evidence of the impacts of LLC services on students' early career outcomes including paid competitive employment, postsecondary school enrollment, and improved confidence to achieve career goals. This information will assist the transition field by providing evidence of LLC's effectiveness along with potential replicability in other states.