



# Preparing Students for the Future through a Successful Transition Program

Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education – Transition Program

Orland Park, Illinois



The Transition Program recognizes that students are most effective as employees and citizens when they feel independent, productive and confident. We provide opportunities for the students to achieve these goals through vocational training, daily living skills practice, personal-social skill practice and planning for all aspects of their life.

## Education/Training

### Transition Program Classes:

Students are divided into instructional groups and participate in 4 classes daily, as well as receiving instruction in their homeroom.

- Daily Living Skills
- Vocational Skills
- Functional Academics
- Personal Social Skills

Students also participate in a weekly elective and fitness classes at the community center.

2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Personal Social Skills 1- Self-Awareness and Advocacy	Personal Social Skills 2- Problem Solving	Personal Social Skills 3- Relationships with Others	Personal Social Skills 4- Communicating with Others
Vocational Skills 1- Business and Marketing	Vocational Skills 2- Processing and Production	Vocational Skills 3- Construction and Industrial	Vocational Skills 4- Consumer and Service
Daily Living Skills 1- Caring for Yourself	Daily Living Skills 2- Healthy Habits and Food Preparation	Daily Living Skills 3- Maintaining a Home	Daily Living Skills 4- Community Access
Functional Academics 1- And You	Functional Academics 2- At School and Work	Functional Academics 3- Maintaining a Home	Functional Academics 4- Community Access
Vocational Training Experience #1	Vocational Training Experience #3	Vocational Training Experience #5	Vocational Training Experience #7
Vocational Training Experience #2	Vocational Training Experience #4	Vocational Training Experience #6	Vocational Training Experience #8
Electives (Quarterly)	Electives (Quarterly)	Electives (Quarterly)	Electives (Quarterly)

### Curriculum:

We are currently in the process of redesigning and aligning our curriculum across the program. The current design focuses on Project Based Learning and The Council for Exceptional Children's *Life Center Education* curriculum. One goal of the new design is to incorporate more curriculum resources from *Understanding by Design*. Within individual Pods and classrooms a number of research based curriculum resources and interventions are utilized to support the needs of the students.

### Community College:

SWCCCASE Transition Program provides the following supports for students attending local community colleges:

- Transportation between our program and the college campus
- Resource support for executive skills – provided 3 days a week for 1 hour
- College Campus elective – introduces students to the campus and important places around campus (i.e. financial aid office, tutoring centers)

## Employment

### Vocational Training Experiences:

Students participate in job training with support from a para/job coach. Student progress is closely monitored through case notes, skill checklists, and assessment rubrics.

- 50+ Job Sites
- On Campus businesses

### DRS Partnership:

SWCCCASE has a partner relationship with DRS. Transition program administrators supervise the DRS staff, which consists of two program coordinators and two program secretaries. DRS staff oversee approximately 260 active DRS clients (with up to 140 in the referral process at this time) at the member high schools, the SWCCCASE Transition program, local high school transition programs, and private placements.

### Vocational Coordinators:

SWCCCASE Transition Program currently employs two vocational coordinators. Their responsibilities include:

- Job and training site development
- Coordination of student training assignments
- Coordination of transportation for college, training sites, and competitive employees.
- Preparation for competitive/community employment
- Coordination of participation in job fairs and interviews.
- Community employment support



## Independent Living

### Other Services to Support Independent Living:

- Related Services
  - Speech Language Pathologists and Social Workers are teamed to provide maximum support
  - OT/PT
  - Nurses and CNAs
  - Vision Itinerants
  - Hearing Itinerants
  - Orientation & Mobility Specialist
  - Art Therapist
- Travel Training
  - Class trips
  - RTA presentations
  - Travel Training Elective
  - O& M Direct Support
- Community Based Instruction
- Grocery Shopping Program – Students plan for, shop for, and prepare their own lunches.
- Extended School Year
- PBIS School – Tier 1, 2, & 3 Interventions

## Assessment

In addition to triennial reevaluations, student progress is evaluated through the following assessments:

- Curriculum Based Assessments
- Brigance Transition Skills Inventory
- Brigance Inventory of Early Development III
- Program developed Job Skills Rubric that mirrors the DRS vocational training site evaluation.

