



Kentucky Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

Program Brief for Educators

As Educators, our job is not just to get students to graduation, but to prepare them for life after they leave high school. For some students with intellectual disabilities, that may include enrollment in one of Kentucky's Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary programs.

Jason E. Glass, Ed.D., Kentucky Education Commissioner

In Kentucky, there are increasingly more higher education options for students with Intellectual Disabilities (ID). This brief is intended to assist educators in supporting students with ID in pursuing their postsecondary education and employment goals.

Comprehensive Transition & Postsecondary Programs (CTPs)

CTPs were created by the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA, 2008). They are designed to support students with ID as defined by the HEOA, who want to continue academic, career or technical instruction in higher education in order to better prepare for competitive integrated employment and independent living. CTPs:

- utilize person-centered planning to help students identify and explore career goals, which may include paid work and non-paid work-based experiences;
- facilitate the social and academic integration of students on a college campus; and
- provide support to navigate all elements of college life, including: admissions, coursework, work experiences, extracurricular activities.

CTP Program Eligibility and Financial Assistance

Federal Financial Assistance: Students enrolled in an approved CTP are eligible for Federal Financial Assistance (Pell Grant, Federal Work Study) and must complete the FAFSA in order to determine financial need. (Financial Aid is not considered a student loan).

State Financial Assistance: Students are eligible for a Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) if the student:

- received an alternative high school diploma; or
- is a student with an ID who attended a Kentucky public high school; and
- enrolls in an approved CTP in Kentucky, [KRS 164.7882](#)

Note: No further action or application is required for the student to receive KEES

KEES amounts for students enrolled in an approved CTP:

- \$500 if enrolled in at least six (6) hours in an academic term; or
- \$250 if enrolled in less than six (6) hours in an academic term.

What Educators May Wish to Consider

As Admissions and Release Committees develop measurable postsecondary goals in the areas of education/ training, employment, and, if applicable, independent living, members may wish to consider:

- Do the student's Individualized Education Program goals align, as appropriate, with interests identified in their Individual Learning Plan, the employment goal as stated in their Individualized Plan for Employment (if eligible for VR services), Pre-employment Transition Services the student may be receiving, etc.?
- Is enrollment in higher education a desired goal for the student, including, if appropriate, enrollment in a CTP? If so, what transition services might the student need to achieve their goal?
- Is the student eligible or potentially eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services?
- How can LEA and VR staff increase collaboration and coordination to support the student's postsecondary employment goal(s)?
- What are some ways the LEA can increase the awareness and understanding of students and families about higher education options for students with ID, such as CTP programs?

CTPs in Kentucky

- [Murray State University](#)
- [Northern Kentucky University](#)
- [Bluegrass Community & Technical College](#)
- University of Kentucky (application submitted)

Additional Information

Think College has transition IEP goals and activities to prepare for inclusive postsecondary education: [View the resource here.](#)

View the Think College resource "Rethinking College," a film that explores the growing movement to include students with ID in higher education. [View Rethinking College here.](#)

**For more information,
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