

December 2018

Dear Participant, Parent/Guardian, Teachers/Staff,

I would like to give an overview and explain what “Pre-ETS” is all about. Pre-ETS is an acronym that stands for: Pre-Employment Transition Services; it is a project administered by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR). Access Alaska has been given the opportunity to develop and implement this project and has done so since 2016.

DVR’s Pre-ETS program identifies and provides a set of pre-employment transition services targeted at in-school youth, ages 15 to 21, which are eligible for, and receiving special education or related services under IDEA, or are an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504. This program does require parent/legal guardian consent in order to have your student participate in Pre-ETS if under 18.

Pre-ETS is a multifaceted approach to basic employment readiness focusing on personal development and skills enhancement. Through the delivery of quality, pre-employment transition services, a participant will have documented exposure to career counseling, work readiness skills attainment and work-based learning experience that reflect the student’s individual goals, interests, values and strengths. These are proven practices for preparing youths for entry into the workforce or postsecondary education and/or training.

Access Alaska staff, an ILA Independent Living Advocate (ILA), will be assigned to go into the classroom during a study period once weekly and with a group of students that have chosen to participate in the Pre-ETS program. The expected amount of time to complete the program is 8-12 weeks. Students who show initiative and drive will have the opportunity to pursue options for a paid work experience through the Pre-ETS program.

Students who have interest in completing Pre-ETS within their school have the option of In-School Pre-ETS. Special education teachers, and other staff, in the high schools help to coordinate a weekly SSP/Advisory class time for Pre-ETS services to be administered during the school day, lasting one semester.

Students may also apply for the Pre-ETS Summer Work Program, an immersive and intensive work-based learning focused experience. During Summer Work Program, students work together as a professional team at various job sites, participating in hands on task and educational opportunities that will enrich their knowledge of local employment opportunities while providing an opportunity to practice soft skills in a real work environment.

Upon completion of Pre-ETS, students will be given information regarding how to pursue further DVR services for the purpose of continuing their employment or postsecondary goals.

Please contact me if you have any questions, assistance or would like more information.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you!

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