

Abstract

This project proposes to enhance provision of transitioning services, specifically High School/High Tech (HS/HT) programming, in **[locality]**, Maryland to address well documented increased high school graduation rates, reduced dropout rates, completion of post-secondary education, achievement of gainful employment and achievement of higher levels of employment for high school students with disabilities. The Design Features of High School/High Tech, including Preparatory Experiences, Connecting Activities, Work-based Experiences and Youth Development & Leadership, have been shown to improve the education and employment outcomes of students with disabilities. In addition, Maryland and **[locality]** businesses and agencies will profit from a better-prepared workforce.

[locality] is fortunate to have been one of six successful High School/High Tech programs in operation in Maryland. With a strong focus on employment, many of the components of the design features are now offered on-line, with both the on-line medium, the content and activities directly related to high tech careers. Our project will have the following elements:

- Participation on the state level inter-disciplinary leadership consortium to provide oversight, as well as maintenance of parallel local advisory committees.
- Linkage to the statewide High School/High Tech website, allowing for local interface, to efficiently offer the design features of the HS/HT program to high school students with disabilities in all parts of Maryland, and to provide a link to other local programs and post-secondary resource information.
- Cooperative agreements with non-profit community organizations to support HS/HT locally.
- Develop linkage with WIA Youth Councils, county youth employment programs, and other youth initiatives, to support internships and work experiences.
- DORS involvement with HS/HT students to address components such as career assessment, work readiness, connection to workforce and continued education.
- Establishment of local school contacts for referrals (Special Education as well as 504 students) and to assure inclusion of work activities in IEPs, as appropriate.
- Linkage with the Division of Rehabilitation Services Self-Employment program (RISE) to provide the optional Entrepreneurship component.
- Linkage with Business Leadership Networks for posting of resumes, and opportunities for virtual and physical tours, job shadowing and informational interviewing.
- **[Add any additional bullet points that would be applicable to specific grant for which you are applying.]**

It is anticipated that through provision of this program in **[locality]**, students with disabilities will be able to maximize educational achievement, understand the opportunities and responsibilities in science and technology-related careers, make connections with people working in these fields, come to see science and technology careers as possibilities for themselves and begin appropriate planning to achieve technology-related employment.