

Resources shared by Nassau County Public Schools during Employment First Pilot session at 2016 Vision's Conference

For more information on these resources contact:

Donna Thompson, M.Ed.

Nassau County Public Schools

VR Employment Specialist

(904) 225-8077

donna.thompson@nassau.k12.fl.us

1. Description of Nassau County transportation training and collaboration with local Council on Aging (COA)/Nassau Transit Agency

As Nassau County Public Schools and other partners in the transition from school to work began to develop a transportation training, they invited the executive director of the Council on Aging (COA), Mike Hays, into the schools to present information on accessing transportation, costs, and transit routes.

Nassau County Schools' staff worked with students to complete applications for transportation services and supported several students enrolled in the Community Based Work Experiences (CBWE) program to access COA transportation services to and from their volunteer sites with the job coaches.

2. Example of how one student was supported to access the COA transportation Services

This is an example of one Nassau County student who transitioned from school to a job in the community and participated in the transportation training program. Initially, a Nassau County School's staff member supported the student in all aspects of transportation planning including scheduling the ride and riding with the student to and from the job. However 1:1 staff support was gradually phased out until the student was able to schedule a ride, call independently to check on the ride, and access transportation to and from their home to work. Examples of the ways the student was supported to learn the new tasks include:

- A photo log so that the student could recognize the various COA vehicles that they could be picked up in,
- Mock scheduling sessions through phone calls to the COA so that COA staff became familiar with the student's speech patterns, and
- Worked jointly with the student's speech pathologist to identify intelligible, key words for this student to remember in scheduling their transportation,

Nassau County School staff also worked collaboratively with COA staff members to forward information about the student's accommodation requests to each driver so that the driver could support the student during transit as needed. This strong support system and close collaboration has resulted in a successful transition into employment and adulthood for this student.