



Bethel/Franklin Pierce School District

Special Education Department Transition Collaboration



We have a surprise!

Our Annual Transition Fair is here in a NEWSLETTER!



We enjoy our annual transition fair to connect families with resources for individuals with disabilities, though have to adapt this year. We look forward to providing a directory of resources and information you may find helpful here in our newsletter format. Please explore these various vendors and reach out with any questions. We hope to return to our annual tradition at Pierce County Skills Center in 2022.



TOP STORIES



Please attend the virtual conference:



SAVE THE DATE!

The Tools 4 Success Conference is designed for youth, young adults and community members who experience a disability to dream, imagine and shape their future! The 2021 Conference will be hosted online with live sessions on March 23rd. Stay tuned for the session schedule to be posted soon.

<https://www.tools4successconference.org/>



Pierce County

Pierce County Parks, Specialized Recreation- Adventure within reach is a program for individuals with Special needs ages 3 years to 100 years. We offer social groups, Special Olympics, Art, Virtual Classes, camps, and Special Events. Our programs are offered throughout Pierce County at Community Centers and local parks. We offer lots of programs for all abilities and interests for those living in Pierce County. We offer lots of COVID safe programs, from Virtual classes to small in person programs when the rules allow.

Website: www.piercecountywa.gov/pcsr

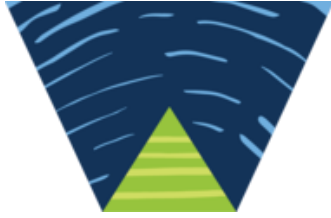
Families can contact Jen Spane at (253) 798-4753 or at jen.spane@piercecountywa.gov Families may also call Sprinker at (253) 798-4000 to register



ANew and the **Youth Exploration Program** offers students a look into the lucrative, hands on world of **construction/building trades**. Let us open the door to you and your student of what it looks like to be a **Tradesperson**. There is a building boom here in the Pacific Northwest, and the opportunities are endless!

<https://anewaop.org/career-exploration/>

Work with your DVR counselor for access to small group classes.



Washington State

ABLE SAVINGS PLAN

Washington State ABLE Savings & Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund

Living with a disability is often associated with significant amounts of extra costs. That's why Washington's individuals and families can now contribute to an ABLE account and the Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund to set aside funds for the future. These programs enable people with disabilities to save for the future, pay for disability-eligible expenses, **without** affecting their benefits.

The Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund is a special needs fund that allows individuals with developmental disabilities, or their families, to set aside funds for future use without affecting their eligibility for government services and benefits, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid. <https://ddetf.wa.gov/> and toll-free at 888.754.8798 ext. 1.

Washington ABLE Savings allows people with eligible disabilities to save for their everyday needs, invest in a tax-free account and prepare for the future without losing their state or federal benefits. <https://www.washingtonstateable.com/> and/or toll-free at 844-600-2253.

[WA State Developmental Disabilities Endowment Trust Fund](#) or call toll-free at 888.754.8798 ext. 1

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Rios Employment & Consulting Services, Inc. has been working in Pierce County for over 25 years. We contract with both Pierce County and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to provide both short and long term employment support to those that are eligible.

Rios employment currently has a 99% successful placement rate.

Some of the services we provide include Job Foundations, School to Work, and Individual Employment support; Other services available include community based assessments, person centered planning, job placement, job coaching, and job site follow along to ensure success for all of our clients.

Rios' staff provides ongoing assistance via regular job site visits to assist you in your chosen job to ensure ongoing communication, advocacy, and confidence while working in a competitive job market.

WWW.RIOS-SERVICES.COM

Contact person for Rios: Tamra Flores- Director (253)904-8616



Center for Independence (CFI) provides support and resources to individuals who experience disabilities to fully access and participate in the community. We work one-on-one with youth and young adults to help develop skills designed to promote self-awareness, self-esteem, self-advocacy, and self-empowerment. We also support youth with transitional services including the exploration of career options, postsecondary education, vocational training, employment, adult services, independent living, and community participation. CFI offers monthly peer support groups which is a great way to meet other youth who are working towards similar goals and may experience similar challenges.

CFI additionally offers an annual Youth Transition Summer Workshop. Here is more information on our workshop and I will attach a flyer for those who may be interested:

The FREE Youth Transition Summer Workshop is for youth ages 16-24 with disabilities who are planning to live independently someday and have career or educational goals. Youth who have or had a 504 plan or IEP are encouraged to apply. Individuals interested must call or email to request an application. Once we receive the completed application they will be contacted for an interview.

This year, the workshop will be held through Zoom for social distancing purposes. The workshop focuses on preparing for college and employment and developing independent living skills including things like self-advocacy and financial management. We will also have motivational and guest speakers. This is a great opportunity for youth to get connected with community resources and meet other youth with disabilities who plan to live independently. For more information, or to request an application, please contact our Youth Transition IL Coordinator, Anna Ihrig at (253)-582-1253 ext. 109 or annai@cfisouth.org.

WEBSITE: <https://www.cfi-wa.org/youthgroups>

CONTACT: Anna Ihrig, Youth Transition IL Coordinator

(253)-582-1253 ext. 109

annai@cfisouth.org

Vadis

Vadis has been changing the lives of individuals with disabilities for over 40 years one job at a time. This is achieved through individualized vocational and life planning. Vadis works closely with a multitude of employers throughout Pierce County to create the best job match for each young adults leaving school and entering adulthood. Vadis also offers Pre- Employment Services, Pre-Ets, that include workshops, job shadowing, job tours, informational interviews and more.

Please check out our website or Facebook Page;

<https://www.vadis.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/VadisNews/>

For additional information or to apply for services please contact:

Valerie Maher Valerie@vadis.org

253.863.5173 ext 250

The Pierce County Coalition for Developmental Disabilities (PC2) is a parent-driven 501(c)3 organization responsible for providing clear, consistent information for families and individuals who experience developmental disabilities in Pierce County, Washington.

WEBSITE: <https://www.pc2online.org/>



Cares of Washington has proudly provided services for over 39 years for people with disabilities and low incomes. We are a community minded, people-centered, organization, who strongly believe in individualized and independent choice for each of our clients. We serve clients 18 years of age and over. We are accredited by The Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, also known as CARF.

Cares provides services in:

Independent Employment (IE) -this program focuses individuals seeking employment. It includes, job search, job placement, carved positions, training, and retention in that position once employment is achieved.

Community Inclusion (CI) - this program focuses on individuals who desire to become part of their community engaging in activities or hobbies that interest them. It includes, exploring different activities, outings that provide the individual opportunities to meet other community members with “same” interests. Joining groups or clubs that provide a path to participate and make new friends.

Department of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) - Cares partners with DVR in providing people with disabilities the tools and supports needed for successful employment. Individuals seeking assistance from DVR for employment services can have a dual partnership with Cares. Cares provides the intensive job search and placement services for the individual while DVR provides extra support and some financial services.

Opening Doors and Changing Lives



Partnerships for Action, Voices for Empowerment

Our mission

PAVE provides support, training, information and resources to empower and give voice to individuals, youth and families impacted by disabilities.

Our vision

We envision an inclusive community that values the unique abilities, cultures, voices, contributions and potential of all individuals.

<https://wapave.org/who-we-are/>

[Wise: Promote equitable employment for people with developmental disabilities](#)

[Technical Assistance & Training, Person Centered Planning, S2W/Transition](#)

www.gowise.org

EQUUS WORKFORCE:

www.equusworks.com

Our workforce professionals are guided by our mission of helping individuals to live their best life and our LEGACY standards of Leadership, Environment, Get Going!, Attitude, Communication, and You!

Other useful websites:

Developmental Disabilities Administration: <https://www.dshs.wa.gov/dda>

Vocational Rehabilitation:

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/location/dshs-dvr-tacoma>