

Louisiana Believes

Opportunity Grant:

Collaboratively Building Vocational and
Post-Secondary Educational Programming for Students Taking
an Alternate Assessment

Objectives

Understand the details related to a grant opportunity:

- The Grant
 - Background and purpose
 - Program priorities
 - Application requirements
 - Eligible participants
 - Available funding
 - Timelines
- Resources for Inspiration

The Grant

The Grant: Background and Purpose

State and national changes have created an atmosphere that is ripe with opportunities for high school students with disabilities taking an alternate assessment:

State Level

- Implementation of pathways to a diploma:
 - Career and vocational pathway known as Jump Start
 - Pathway for students assessed on an alternate assessment
- Creation of post-secondary educational program- currently five in the state

National Level

- Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) identified a systemized approach to pre-employment training known as Pre-Employment Transition Services or PreETS.

Discussion: Opportunities in Your District

Louisiana has unique opportunities for students with disabilities to receive both academic and career training while pursuing a high school diploma.

- What opportunities does your district/ community currently provide to students?
- How were those opportunities established?
- What are the biggest barriers you face in making these opportunities a reality for all students?

The Grant: Background and Purpose

When designing programs that address the individualized and unique needs of small population of students, LEAs may not always have the expertise or resources to independently build new programs and establish community partnerships that meet the needs of each student.

This grant is intended to address that challenge by:

- funding collaborative partnerships focused on leveraging expertise across multiple LEAs and/or other cooperative relationships with an institute of higher education (IHE), and
- creating regional self-sustaining consortia's that focus on meeting the post-secondary career and educational needs of high school students that take the alternate assessment.

The Grant: Program Priorities

Priority 1

Establish self-sustaining partnerships between an LEA and another LEA(s) and/or an IHE to address post-secondary employment and educational opportunities for students with disabilities taking the alternate assessment by:

- building community work-based learning experiences and/or post-secondary educational experiences,
- crafting structures to address the mobility components associated with students getting to and from community work-based learning experiences and/or post-secondary educational programs, and
- creating an atmosphere of high expectations that all students have the capacity to be employed in an integrated, competitive setting and/or continue life-long learning at an institute of higher education.

The Grant: The Value of Collaboration

There are currently partnerships across the state proving the students with disabilities can meet expectations when given the right opportunities.

The “Pay Check” program at Delgado Community College is a collaborative effort between these entities acting in the following capacities:

- **Delgado Community College** – providing instructors, classrooms, and college experiences
- **LEAs/Charter** - Jefferson Parish Schools, Orleans Parish Schools as well as Collegiate Academies send students to the program as well as contribute funding to the creation and continuance of program.
- **LSU Human Development Center** serves as the fiscal and administrative agents.
- **University Medical Center** offers community work based learning experiences for students.



Discussion: Partnerships in Your District

Think about the possibilities of partnerships in your district.

- What could this look like?
- Who could you partner with?
- What would be your specific focus?

The Grant: Program Priorities

Priority 2

Through the locally established partnership, create programs that will increase the number of students with disabilities taking the alternate assessment who:

- obtain employment in an integrated setting after completing high school and/or
- attend an institute of higher education for concurrent or post-secondary learning experiences.

Discussion: Partnerships in Your District

Think about the current capacity of your district to address the individual and unique career preparation needs of students who take the alternate assessment.

What student needs could you address via the partnership?

How could a partnership with other LEAs or an IHE better prepare them for a successful life after high school?

The Grant: The Value of Collaboration

In the northern part of our state, you will find another set of programs that gives students with disabilities the opportunity to succeed on post-secondary levels. the “[Program for Successful Employment I](#)” (PSE I) and the “Program for Successful Employment II” (PSE II) are located at Bossier Parish Community College.

PSE I is a program for students with intellectual disabilities and/or Autism. Partial funding for this program comes from a collaboration with LRS. Only students approved for LRS services can attend. This program focuses on Pre-employment Transition training (PreETS) for students currently enrolled in high school. This program currently has a 73% employment rate for students with intellectual disabilities and autism.

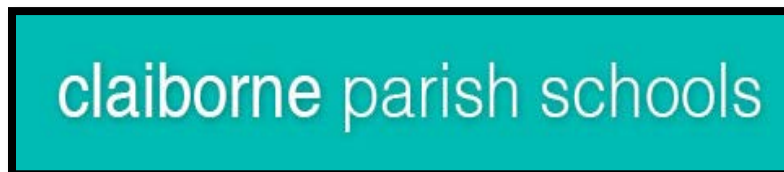
PSE II is the second federally Certified Transition Program in the state. This program is open to all students with disabilities of any age. Students in this program can pursue their choice of studies including career and vocational training programs.



The Grant: The Value of Collaboration

PSE I is a collaborative effort between these entities acting in the following capacities:

- **Bossier Parish Community College** acts as the administrator and fiscal agent, providing PreETS opportunities to high school students with disabilities.
- **LEAs – Bossier and Claiborne** Parish Schools send students to PSE I for concurrent enrollment opportunities. Bossier Parish Schools provides transportation for their students.
- **LRS** – provides a percentage of the funding for one of the programs



The Grant: Eligible Participants

All Louisiana LEAs and IHEs are eligible to apply for funds to establish a local partnership focused on developing a self sustaining structure for addressing the post secondary preparation needs of students who take the alternate assessment.

Although the project will include multiple entities, only one partner will:

- serve as fiscal agent,
- submit the application, and
- oversee the use of funds.

The Grant: Available Funding

The Federal Fiscal Year 2017 IDEA grant application reflects **\$350,000** of IDEA Part B funds for establishing these partnerships.

Grant amounts awarded to each accepted proposal will vary, depending on the:

- quality of the individual application,
- amount of students impacted by the funds,
- number of proposals received, and
- Limit of \$75,000 per application.

Funds are intended to be used for:

- fostering activities that encourage collaboration,
- supporting the establishment of long term, self sustaining partnerships, and
- supporting the collaborative planning necessary for creating structures and programs for this population.

The Grant: Timelines

Grants will awarded using the following timeline so partnerships are established and ready to begin work at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

Applications released	June 12, 2017
Informational Webinar	June 15, 2017
Applications due	July 10, 2017
Phone interviews	July 19-20, 2017
Award Notification	August 16, 2017

Resources for Inspiration

Resources for Inspiration: Post-Secondary Educational

There are currently six post-secondary educational programs in Louisiana for students with disabilities that are assessed on an alternate assessment:

- [Bridge to Independence – Nicholls State University](#)
- [Lions Connected – Southeastern Louisiana University](#)
- [Postsecondary Apprenticeship for Youth \(PAY Check\) to Employment – LSUHDC/Delgado Community College/University Medical Center](#)
- [Program for Successful Employment \(PSE\) – Bossier Parish Community College](#)
- [Program for Successful Employment \(PSE\) – Baton Rouge Community College](#)
- [UL Life Program – University of Louisiana at Lafayette](#)

Resources for Inspiration: Post-Secondary Educational



“Bridge to Independence”
at Nicholls State University, offers
two types of programs:

- **Certificate Program** designed to help students with intellectual disabilities gain the skills needed to become gainfully employed through college courses and job-training.
- **Degree Program** designed to provide add-on services to help students with ASD successfully transition to college life and further develop their social skills and campus friendships.

Resources for Inspiration: Post-Secondary Educational

“Lions Connected” at Southeastern Louisiana University offers students with intellectual disabilities:

- personalized, post-secondary educational experiences grounded in a “learning by doing” philosophy,
- vocational training opportunities,
- inclusion in college classes, and
- functional Life Skills courses.



Resources for Inspiration: Post-Secondary Educational

“Program for Successful Employment” at Baton Rouge Community College offers vocational training for students with autism and/or intellectual disabilities:

- academic and job skills training, and
- externship opportunities in regional businesses.

- Partners include:

- ARC of Baton Rouge
- ARC of East Ascension
- Louisiana Rehabilitation Services
- Families Helping Families
- Gateway Transitions
- State Independent Living Council
- LSU-New Orleans
- Capital Area Services, and
- East Baton Rouge Schools



Resources for Inspiration: Post-Secondary Educational

“UL LIFE Program”
at UL Lafayette
offers students with
intellectual disabilities:

- personalized, post-secondary educational experiences grounded in a “learning by doing” philosophy, and
- incorporates functional academics, independent daily living skills, employment, social/leisure skills, and health/wellness skills.



Resources for Inspiration: Post Secondary Educational

To explore other post-secondary educational programs like those in Louisiana use the [“Think College”](#) website.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Think College website. The header features the logo "think COLLEGE!" with a building icon, the tagline "College Options for People with Intellectual Disabilities", and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email. A search bar labeled "Google Custom Search" is also present. The navigation menu includes links for HOME, PUBLICATIONS, TRAINING, TOPICS, ABOUT, and CONTACT.

The main content area is divided into several sections:

- NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER:** A prominent orange banner with the text "The report on Model Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability: A Path to Education, Employment and Community Living is now available!" and a "LEARN MORE" button. An image of the report cover is shown.
- Navigation Buttons:** A vertical column of four buttons: "FIND A COLLEGE" (red), "FIND A RESOURCE" (dark blue), "WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR STATE" (green), and "FOR STUDENTS" (yellow).
- News Section:** A section titled "Think College News" with sub-tabs for "Think College Projects" and "Upcoming Events". A news item is listed: "New **Research Summit** scheduled for June 7. Tune in to hear two presenters share their doctoral research related to students with ID in postsecondary education."

Next Steps

1. Identify your needs and potential partners
2. Work together to submit an application
3. Make a difference for the students in your community.
4. Applications released Monday, June 12.
5. Informational webinar, Thursday, June 15:
Conference number: 1-855-240-2575
Participant Code: 30160130
Link: <https://louisianaschools.adobeconnect.com/transition/>

Contact: rebecca.hanberry@la.gov or 225.342.9512 with any additional questions.