2021 Post-Secondary Success for Special Populations
Resource Development Committee Application

Application Form

Application closes at 11:59 P.M. on June 4. Applicants will be notified of acceptance status by June 11, 2021.

Purpose

The Post-Secondary Success for Special Populations Resource Development Committee’s purpose is to address the unique needs of our English Learners and Students with Disabilities as they explore, plan and transition into post-secondary experiences. This work directly aligns with the vision of the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) to maximize the potential of all learners and our mission to advance equitable and innovative learning.

We know that ELs and SWDs often face barriers and challenges that limit their access to post-secondary transition supports and career development opportunities. For some, the focus is on graduation alone and post-secondary options are never discussed or explored. The untapped potential of our ELs and SWDs is a missed opportunity that we aim to directly address.

Special populations of Virginia, particularly English Learners (EL) and Students with Disabilities (SWD), often do not have the same opportunities as their peers. Many educators and school counselors lack the training to support EL students and SWDs or they struggle to find accessible resources for career development and post-secondary transition supports.

This committee’s work will advance educational equity and address achievement gaps by compiling a resource library for school staff and the creation of training webinars that support successful post-secondary transitions and career development for ALL students.

Description of the Potential Work Scope

- Develop a project plan and priority tasks
- Create/adapt instructional activities (teacher and student focused) focused on college and career pathways differentiated for the unique needs of English Learners and/or Students with Disabilities
- Provide professional learning support connected to the new resources (e.g., pre-recorded webinar)

Benefits

- Professional development
- Advance equity by supporting school staff and students across the Commonwealth to have equal access to post-secondary support services and career development opportunities
- Add state-wide resource development experience to professional experiences
- Stipend: $500, one-time payment upon completion of the agreed-upon work tasks
Logistics

- Timeline: Virtual Summer Kick-Off, June 28, 12:00 -3:00 p.m. Project ends and all materials are due on August 13, 2021.
- Virtual check-in meetings (1 hour), July 20, 2021 and August 2, 2021. Times to be decided by each team.
- Team Composition: 2 School Counselors, 1 English Language Development (ELD) Teacher, 1 Special Educator.
- Team Options: 3-5, 6-8, 9-10, or 11-12.

Application Process

- Complete the application form at 11:59 P.M. on June 4, 2021. Late applications will not be considered.
- Select/create an example lesson/activity/resource that focuses on career exploration, social emotional skill development, or post-secondary planning that is accessible to EL or SWD (e.g., exploring career clusters, goal-setting, action planning, completing applications, family resource, interest inventories, resume writing, interview skills). Upload your work sample in the application form.

Qualifications

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<th>School Counselors who...</th>
<th>English Language Development (ELD) Teachers who...</th>
<th>Special Education Educators who...</th>
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<td>• Have experience working with SWD and/or EL.</td>
<td>• Advocate for and provide opportunities for ELs with beginning literacy and proficiency to engage with core content standards and rigorous thinking and learning tasks;</td>
<td>• Hold a VA Special Education teacher credential.</td>
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<td>• Utilize inclusive practices to include all students in their comprehensive school counseling program.</td>
<td>• Explicitly and intentionally teach academic language and discourse connected to VA SOL content topics (beyond a focus on vocabulary and grammar drills);</td>
<td>• Have experienced working with students with disabilities at the elementary or secondary levels or both.</td>
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<td>• Promote a post-secondary success for all students.</td>
<td>• Develop lessons that incorporate all four language domains; and</td>
<td>• Are knowledgeable regarding SBIEP, evidence based and research based practices, that increase graduation and decrease dropout rates.</td>
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<td>• Actively consult and collaborate with staff and families to understand the special needs of a student and understanding the adaptations and modifications needed to assist the student.</td>
<td>• Include a variety of supports and scaffolding strategies in daily lessons.</td>
<td>• Are knowledgeable of specially designed instruction, UDL, ADA, Self determination.</td>
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<td>• Promote equal opportunity for all individuals regardless of citizenship status, disability, or home language.</td>
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<td>• Collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team that also includes parents.</td>
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<td>• Engage in developing academic, transition and academic career plans for SWD and EL students.</td>
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<td>• Have knowledge of Standards-Based IEPs.</td>
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For more information please contact:

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