

6-6-14

To: Employment First stakeholders

From: Statewide Employment First Coordinator Mike Maley

Re: Employment Question: Schools and Employment Planning

(Please forward to your local partners & stakeholders)

Every month, we will publish answers to an Employment Question of the Month submitted by stakeholders. These provide good discussion topics and help provide guidance on the work going forward as we implement the Governor's Executive Order 13-04 and the Employment First Integrated Work Plan. To submit a Question of the Month, email employment.first@state.or.us.

Our partners with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) provided the answer to this month's question.

Question: Can schools pay for facilitated person-centered employment planning by a trained facilitator?

Answer: Yes. Local school districts have the authority to pay for any service they feel would help identify appropriate transition preferences, interests, needs, and strengths of a student.

The school district is not required to pay for, or provide, person-centered planning. Person-centered planning is just one of the many types of assessments and processes for transition and career planning, but it is a service worthy of consideration. This type of planning may be very appropriate for some students and reveal information not previously identified or shared.

It is up to the student and their Individualized Education Program (IEP) team to determine if person-centered planning is an appropriate assessment tool to support the student in developing measurable post-secondary goals such as education/training, employment, and independent living.

Thank you all for your continued involvement, support, and advocacy for services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oregon. If you have comments or other questions, please email them to employment.first@state.or.us.