

Community Based Instruction includes *Work Based Learning* - Talking Points for SPED Teams

The Special Education Department created updated guidelines for Community Based Instruction (CBI) to expand career exploration, the range of work based learning activities, and inclusive practices within the school community. The updated guidelines align educational services with federal and state law as well as district strategic plans.

- **Work Based Learning falls under the scope of CBI.** As such, all application packets should include SPED Team Planning Guide for Work Based Learning, All forms are available on the SPED website.
- On July 22, 2014, **President Barack Obama signed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** into law. WIOA was created to transform systems that support individuals with disabilities in career exploration, training and finding work/jobs.
 - Systems include public schools, special educators, Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) counselors and county social workers
 - Every high school in Minnesota has an assigned VRS transition counselor who can help students explore careers, complete post-secondary training, find a job and start a career.
 - VRS = employment services program funded by State and Federal dollars for people with disabilities, including students and young adults who are moving from school to what comes next.
- **WIOA changes are in line with the historic 1999 Olmstead decision** made by the US Supreme Court.
 - Lois Curtis was one of the individuals who sued the State of Georgia because she was forced to live in a hospital rather than in the community. The US Supreme Court ruled that it is illegal to force people with disabilities to be served in segregated settings.
 - **Olmstead and WIOA are about a person's civil rights.** People with disabilities must have opportunities to live, learn, work, and enjoy life in the most integrated setting, just like everyone else. The United States Department of Justice explains that the most integrated setting is one that *"enables individuals with disabilities to interact with nondisabled persons to the fullest extent possible..."*
- **Minnesota has an "Olmstead Plan"** which outlines work being done to ensure that this happens in our state. You can Google "MN Olmstead Plan" to learn more. We have one of the most comprehensive plans in the nation. [Minnesota's Olmstead Plan](#)
 - **Employment Capacity Building Cohort (ECBC) – began in 2015** lead by MDE. ECBC includes 16 teams across the state of MN – goal is to increase the number of DCD students ages 19-21 who enter into competitive integrated employment upon graduation. MPS has a large team working on ECBC. Each team is comprised of VRS counselor, DD county case manager, school district work coordinator, work based learning instructor, Director of SPED. A team also works with Minneapolis CTIC to begin implementation of evidence- based employment and postsecondary education strategies.
- **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)** puts limitations on the use of "subminimum wage" - Youth **age 24 and under** cannot enter into subminimum wage employment without accessing VRS first- Effective July 22, 2016
 - Reduces the "tracking" of transition aged youth into subminimum wage jobs
 - Ensures informed choice and experiences that lead to competitive integrated employment
 - When a person makes an informed choice, he/she has the opportunity to explore and understand - What are the employment related options? What supports are available? What are the pros and cons of the employment options? How can I overcome barriers?
- **MPS Special educators, district-level staff, VRS counselors and county social workers** all play a role in expanding career exploration, the range of work based learning activities, and inclusive practices within the school community.