

Transition Vocational Specialist

Jean Patton

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East Central Kansas
**Cooperative
in Education**

Support at a Glance



Collaboration and Consultation:

I work closely with students, families, educators, and community organization representatives to identify available resources and services for students and their families related to postsecondary education and work related goals. I also advocate for students' needs and help connect them with the appropriate agencies or organizations.



Transition Assessment and Planning:

I assist with developing individualized Transition Plans which help special education students move from high school to postsecondary education, trade or vocational training, employment, military service, or independent living. These plans are an integral part of each student's Individualized Education Plan once they turn age 14.



Work-Based Learning Coordination:

I collaborate with teams in exploring and planning work opportunities for students in their communities. From there I help arrange community-based instruction, job shadowing, volunteer opportunities, and/or paid work experiences that allow students to gain real-world job skills while they are in high school.



Data Collection and Analysis:

I provide specific resources, guidance, and assistance to teachers with administering Transition Assessments and interpreting the results. The results of these assessments play a critical role in developing effective Transition Plans for students with disabilities.

I believe in creating a student-centered and collaborative environment in which building strong relationships with students, their families, educators, and community partners is critical for developing a Transition Plan for secondary special education students that will provide them with a successful and meaningful life after high school. A well-developed transition plan provides a roadmap which helps students move from high school to adulthood by identifying their strengths, interests, preferences, and goals while outlining the services and supports needed to achieve those goals.

Ways I Provide Support

- Provide support for Transition Planning on the IEPs to special education teachers and teams
- Assist with planning, directing, administering, and analyzing Transition Assessments with special education students
- Attend IEP meetings to offer suggestions and resources to IEP teams and families which are related to students' future postsecondary goals
- Help students explore career pathways through interest inventories, job shadowing, workplace tours, college and trade school visits, etc.
- Coordinate and monitor work-based learning job experiences in students' local communities

I provide support and meet with ECKCE special education teachers individually or with specific school teams to discuss postsecondary transition and vocational plans of students within each school district.

Contact me if you need support in any of these areas or have other needs.

IEPs and Transition Planning

- Attend IEP Meetings for students ages 14 and older and particularly RISE and Bridges students
- Answer questions related to the Transition sections of the IEP
- Offer information and support regarding Indicator 13 and the Senior Exit Requirements

Transition Assessments & Community Resources

- Provide suggestions for specific types of Transition Assessments to teachers and support staff
- Help to administer assessments and/or interest inventories
- Recommend and explain specific kinds of community resources and services to IEP teams and families

Work-Based Learning & Job Shadowing

- Meet with teams to determine what work related experience(s) would be appropriate for certain individual students
- Arrange specific work experiences for students at local businesses and provide initial and on-going job support for staff members