

Portland Public Schools
Community Transition Program
Information for Students and Parents



Corinne Thomas-Kersting, Program Administrator
Mary Pearson, Special Education Director

The Community Transition Program (CTP) serves students with IEPs who graduate with alternate diplomas. The purpose of the program is to support young adults in their transition to life after high school. Our key focus is to help young adults build independence and quality of life with an emphasis on preparing students for independent living, employment, and linking them to appropriate community and adult services. The areas of instruction for transition at CTP include:

- Independent Living
- Vocational Training
- Adult Education or Academics for Life
- Community Participation
- Recreation and Leisure

The program is based on an adult education model, which values the following:

- Experience-based learning
- Self Advocacy and the transition to becoming a self-directed learner
- Self Assessment Skills
- Lifelong Learning (including practical literacy)

CTP provides access to 990 hours of instruction and transition services per year to all students. The 990 hours may include part-time work or other classes or activities in the community that are part of the student's transition plan and are monitored and overseen by PPS. A student's IEP team may decide that a student cannot access 990 hours of instruction and transition services per year if, for example, the student does not have the stamina to attend full time due to health issues.

The general right to access a full time program at CTP continues until students age out of the program at the end of the school year when they reach age 21. However, it is expected that some CTP students will participate in fewer hours over time with increased independence and participation in paid or volunteer work, alternatives to employment, or other adult activities. Others may begin CTP at a more independent level and combine CTP with work or other education from the beginning.

Students who enroll in the Community Transition Program work with a teacher and other young adults at one of the Community Transition Centers (CTC). Instruction focuses on increasing independence for adult living, learning how to access the community, and job readiness skills. It may also focus on increasing literacy and math skills in practical, adult applications for students who seek to improve their skills in these areas. A vocational transition specialist (VTS) also works with each CTC to support students in developing job skills and readiness for employment in accordance with IEP and transition goals.

Please do not hesitate to contact your transition teacher or the CTP office (503-916-5817) if you have any questions or would like more information.