

2020-2021 Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) Grants

The Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education annually awards Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) grants to local education agencies interested in establishing or expanding effective competitive integrated employment programming for youth with disabilities.

For the 2020-2021 school year, 13 establishment grants were awarded, and 8 expansion grants were awarded.

During the school year:	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
Students participated in CIE grant activities	567	1313
Students participated in some type of employment as a result of grant activities	262	534
Students involved in grant activities have open cases with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation	174	462
Students have maintained the competitive integrated employment position obtained via the grant	61	222
Community agencies partnered with CIE grant recipients	36	60

Successes



Barriers

2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Additional work sites within the community ✓ Social networks created for students through employment ✓ Virtual programming options created and/or enhanced ✓ Paid work experiences for students ✓ Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES) Lab integration into curriculum ✓ Board approval for job coaches beyond the scope of the CIE grant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Increased student participation in the transition process ✓ Connected students to needed supports ✓ Hired and trained additional staff ✓ Enhanced virtual learning opportunities for students ✓ Increased number of job shadowing experiences/exploratory options ✓ Increased parent involvement

2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Transportation ✓ Staff coverage for students in the community ✓ Finding new employment sites ✓ Student scheduling issues ✓ Delays with hiring staff ✓ Participation in CBVI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Finding new employment sites ✓ Ensuring students follow through with required paperwork ✓ Securing viable transportation options ✓ Addressing COVID-related student attendance issues

2020-2021 Competitive Integrated Employment Grant Poster Presentations can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlvPrE-BcVE>

"Being a part of the Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) grant for the past two years has been a wonderful experience. This grant has enabled us to support our job coaches and to purchase hands-on curriculum to instruct our students in various jobs. These hands-on activities were extremely effective for our students who are tactual learners. This year, as COVID restrictions are lifting, our students will begin work in the community. We are very thankful to have had this opportunity."

Ms. Jackie Brennan
Superintendent
Overbrook School for the Blind

Grant Coordinator Contact Information

Name of LEA:	Name of Grant Coordinator:	Position/Title:	Work Email Address:
Agora Cyber Charter School	Morgan Witman	Transition Coordinator	mwitman@agora.org
Baldwin-Whitehall School District	Eric Jankoski	Transition Coordinator	ejankoski@bwschools.net
Central Fulton School District	Dr. Christina Ramsey	Director of Student Services	cramsey@cfsd.info
Connellsville Area School District	Shawna Little	Workforce Development Coordinator	slittle@casdfalcons.org
Colonial IU 20	Grant Coordinator Information not available. For additional information, contact Jennifer Jones-Baur at jjonesbaur@ciu20.org		
Greater Johnstown School District	Vicki Ryan	Federal Programs Student Services Coordinator	vryan@gjsd.net
Hampton Township School District	Sharon Smith	Special Education/Transition Coordinator	sharon.smith@ht-sd.org
Mastery Charter School Gratz Campus	Natalie Lucas	Grants Manager	Natalie.Lucas@masterycharter.org
Mount Pleasant Area	Anna Hare	Coordinator of Special Education	ahare@mpasd.net
Norwin School District	Malissa Cheplick	Transition Coordinator	MCHEPLICK@norwinsd.org
Overbrook School for the Blind	Jackie Brennan	Superintendent	jackie@obs.org
Philadelphia Electrical and Technology Charter High School	Leigh-Ann Wilson	Director of Special Education	wilsonl@petchs.org
Riverside Beaver County School District	Michael Walmsley	Learning Support Teacher/Transition Coordinator	mwalmsley@riverside.k12.pa.us
School District of Philadelphia	Jane Cordero	Special Education and Transition Specialist	jcordero@philasd.org
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29	Doreen Milot	Education Specialist - Transition	d1m@iu29.org
Seneca Highlands IU9	Shelly Carson	Director of Special Education	scarson@iu9.org
Spectrum Charter School, Inc.	Amber Simcic	Transition Coordinator	asimcic@spectrumcsi.org
Troy Area School District	Tara Freeman	Director of Support Services	tfreeman@troyareasd.org
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West Allegheny School District	Tammy Adams	Assistant to the Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services	tadams@westasd.org
Westmoreland Intermediate Unit	Jason Stragand	Student Services Supervisor	jstragand@wiu7.org