



Do you have a disability? Do you want to attend college or trade school or get a job?

If you answered yes, we invite you to join the Illinois Pathways to Partnerships Project (IP2P). IP2P is a free, innovative demo project. It will run for four years. The Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) wants to find out if new methods can help students like you, aged 10-24. We aim to boost community engagement, jobs, and independence.

IP2P will deliver a new model for Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). It will use an age-appropriate curriculum from your local CIL. It will also use tools from the Illinois Institute for Rehabilitation Education and Research. These tools can help you choose a career path. Pre-ETS are a specific set of activities. They include:

1. Job Exploration Counseling helps users find their interests and values. It explores careers. It often involves a series of tests and interviews. Activities can be formal or informal. You can do them alone or in a group. These activities boost self-awareness. It also helps people understand the labor market and job options.
2. Work-Based Learning Experience lets students do real work in the field. It helps them connect to future careers.
3. Counseling on Postsecondary Education Opportunities helps with the transition to college or trade school. It does this by exploring future training options via long-range career planning.
4. Workplace Readiness Training gives students the skills to succeed at work. These include problem-solving, critical thinking, teamwork, etc.
5. Self-Advocacy Training helps students to speak up for their needs and passions. It makes them more self-reliant. It boosts their ability to choose and face challenges. This empowers them for life.



For this project, transition services can begin as early as age 10. Your local CIL follows you and your family through school. The project plans to offer many internships and apprenticeships through CILs and DRS. You can apply what you learned in class to daily life.

But the benefits of IP2P don't end there. Your parents may also meet and engage with other project participants. Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) will teach parents new ways to boost their own wellness. Parents may also learn ways to boost their child's independence. IIT may pay parents for participating in trainings.

Finally, the advisory group may invite you or your parents to join. If selected, you can give live feedback on the project. Attending four meetings each year will do this. Meetings alternate between in-person and virtual formats. For more info on the advisory group, check the box near your signature at the bottom of this form.

IP2P links our school district with the state board of education, DRS, and our local CIL. These partnerships foster teamwork. They boost support for students with disabilities. They create a seamless network of resources and expertise. The project will team up with several universities. It will give access to new supports for parents and students. It will also work with local employers and agencies. Our goal is to help you. We want you to get a job and live on your own. We'll build your skills and find job resources to help you.

People with disabilities run CILs. Most staff, managers, and board members have disabilities. Their support helps make informed choices. It gives consumers the confidence to chase their dreams and be independent. IP2P aims to boost students' self-image. This helps them form strong peer relationships and succeed after high school. It is vital for students with disabilities in under-served groups.

If you and your family choose to take part, we will ask you some questions. These will be about you, your educational or work goals, and your experience. We will also use information from those helping you to achieve your goals at school or find and keep a job. We will refer you to your local CIL. They will help you become a DRS customer. DRS can help you access the items and skills you need to succeed. This includes, but is not limited to, books, school supplies, and assistive tech. It may also include internships and apprenticeships.

The project partners above will only use information collected from and about you. They will use it to see if the new IP2P model raised participants' knowledge and skills. Your info will help find out if IP2P got more students into college, trade school, or minimum-wage jobs.

You do not have to be in this project if you don't want to. Even if you say yes now, you can change your mind later and tell us you want to stop. We will also ask your guardian to permit your participation in this project. But even if you or they say "yes," you can still decide not to be in the project. Project team members alone access and use your collected data.

It is okay to ask questions. If you don't understand something, you can ask us. We want you to ask questions now, and anytime you think of them. If you think of a question later, please contact your DRS counselor or employment specialist. You can also ask us the next time we see you.



Printed Name

Printed Name of School Representative

Sign Here

Signature of School Representative

Date

Date

I wish to be contacted by the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) regarding family programs.

I am interested in serving on the advisory group.

Name of Guardian/Legally Authorized Representative

Signature of Guardian/Legally Authorized Representative

Date

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