



Ready for Work, Ready for Life: ***Systems Improvements for Seamless*** ***Secondary Transition Services***

June 3, 2026





**West Virginia Board of Education
2025-2026**

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West Virginia Department of Education

June 3, 2026 | Agenda

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast and Registration Reception Hall
8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Vendor Spotlights Centennial Room
9:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions Various Rooms
10:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions Centennial Room
11:00 a.m.	Breakout Sessions Various Rooms
12:00 p.m.	Lunch Buffet and Vendor Walk
1:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions Various Rooms
2:30 p.m.	Breakout Sessions Various Rooms
3:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks Centennial Room

Breakout Sessions are 50 minutes each to allow 10 minutes for transition time.



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Breakout Session Alphabetical Descriptions

Breakout Sessions are 50 minutes each with 10 minutes available for transition time. All sessions are offered multiple times unless otherwise noted to allow attendees more opportunities to attend. **Sessions are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.** Please note the maximum room capacity listed for each location.

Session Title	Description	Presenter	Location (Room Capacity)
Developing Results-Based Secondary Transition Plans	This session focuses on creating student centered, results driven Secondary Transition Plans that prepare students with disabilities for life beyond high school. Participants will review essential IEP components—including transition assessments, postsecondary goals, courses of study, and transition services—and learn how strong collaboration among IEP teams, families, and adult service providers supports meaningful planning and successful student outcomes.	Katherine Bradley-Black, <i>Special Education Policy & Practice Team, WestEd</i>	Centennial D (50) 1st Floor
Educator Focus Group	An open discussion about successes and challenges in preparing students for life after high school, including education, jobs, military service, and daily living skills.	Bev Nichols, <i>K12 Systems Change Solutions</i>	Morgan Boardroom (12) 2nd Floor
Invest in Success: Discover the Benefits and Implementation of Project SEARCH	Explore how Project SEARCH can strengthen secondary transition services and improve post secondary outcomes for students with disabilities. This interactive panel features partners from Harrison County, Hancock County, and Ruby Memorial Hospital sharing real world insights—from initial planning through long term success—on implementing and sustaining an off campus Project SEARCH program. Participants will gain practical guidance for establishing a new site that prepares students to be ready for work and ready for life.	Holly Opatick, <i>Project SEARCH National Office</i> Cindy Beneke, <i>WVDRS Project Search Coordinator</i>	Capital Room (40) 1st Floor

Session Title	Description	Presenter	Location (Room Capacity)
Navigating and Building Life Experiences (N-ABLE) in Pleasants County	Hear firsthand perspectives on life after high school as former and current students share how the N-ABLE program supported their growth, confidence, and future planning.	Jodi Mote and Student(s), <i>Pleasants County Schools</i>	Clay Boardroom (24) 1st Floor
Social Security Benefits and Work Incentives	Many students and families believe that once you get a job, your benefits (such as Social Security and Medicaid) will be cut. In many cases, students can work and continue to collect some type of benefit. It is important to learn about your options. There are many resources available to help you understand how a job affects your benefits. A benefits planner can help you understand how your specific circumstances can be affected by getting a job.	Audra Spenia, <i>Job Squad, Inc.</i>	Monroe Boardroom (24) 6th Floor
Strengthening Student Connection Through Everyday Practice	This session examines how everyday practices influence student experiences across classrooms and schools. Participants will reflect on the role of consistency, communication, and adult responses in supporting student engagement and learning, and leave with practical strategies for creating more supportive and predictable learning environments.	Stacey Losh, <i>West Virginia Department of Education</i>	Kanawha Boardroom (32) 1st Floor

Session Title	Description	Presenter	Location (Room Capacity)
Supporting Opportunities for Low-Incidence Populations Transitioning Into Adulthood	<p>This session highlights the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind Career Academy for Postgraduates (CAP), a comprehensive transition program supporting Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Blind/Visually Impaired young adults. Participants will learn how CAP integrates student voice, work based learning, independent living instruction, and strong interagency collaboration to strengthen self determination and improve postsecondary, employment, and independent living outcomes for students with low incidence exceptionalities.</p>	<p>Rachel Lanham, <i>West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind</i></p>	<p>Brooke Boardroom (24) 3rd Floor</p>
The Student Journey: Stepping Stones to Success from Middle School to High School and Beyond	<p>This session offers a strategic roadmap for strengthening transitions from middle school to high school and beyond. Participants will explore how cross grade collaboration, purposeful Work Based Learning, and meaningful “meet the teacher” experiences can bridge programmatic levels, connect classroom learning to career goals, and integrate interagency support into a seamless transition process.</p>	<p>Kayla Violet, Lisa Burke, Rachelle Jenkins, <i>Hancock County Schools</i></p>	<p>Centennial B (50) 1st Floor</p>
Turning Skills Into Success: Post-Secondary Transition and Work-Based Learning In Action	<p>This professional development session aims to equip middle school and high school special education teachers with effective strategies, resources, and real-life examples for enhancing post-secondary transition for students with disabilities. By integrating work-based learning, interagency partnerships, and strong parent engagement, you can ensure students are truly prepared for life after high school.</p>	<p>Kayla Violet, Lisa Burke, Rachelle Jenkins, <i>Hancock County Schools</i></p>	<p>Centennial C (50) 1st Floor</p>

Session Title	Description	Presenter	Location (Room Capacity)
Vocational Rehabilitation Services: High School and Beyond	<p>The West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is here to support youth and adults with disabilities (ages 14 and up) on their path to work and live independently. Learn how DRS can assist eligible students transition between high school and adult life. Transition services help students with disabilities move from high school to employment, postsecondary education or specialized training. DRS can help you make informed choices during your transition and assist you with future career plans.</p>	<p>Marsha Spiker, Alyce Almond, <i>West Virginia Division of Rehabilitative Services</i></p>	<p>Montgomery Room (50) 1st Floor</p>
Where Transition Meets Reality: Using Career Fairs to Drive IEP-Aligned Postsecondary Outcomes	<p>This session highlights how intentionally designed career fairs can serve as documented IDEA transition services while improving employment and postsecondary outcomes for students with disabilities. Participants will learn how structured career exploration, employer and agency engagement, accessibility planning, and follow up documentation align career fair activities with desk audit indicators, IEP compliance, and measurable postsecondary goals. Attendees will also receive a practical compliance checklist for pre, during, and post career fair implementation.</p>	<p>Debra Clay, Erika Lusk, Brenda Shumate, Donna Simmons, <i>Wyoming County Schools</i></p>	<p>Centennial A (50) 1st Floor</p>

Session Title	Description	Presenter	Location (Room Capacity)
Work-Based Learning for Successful Secondary Transition	This session equips educators to design and implement school based work programs that offer students structured, supported opportunities to build real world job skills prior to entering the workforce. Participants will learn how to establish meaningful on campus job placements and align work experiences to IEP transition goals while documenting student progress. Emphasis will be placed on developing essential employability skills and strengthening secondary transition services to improve post school outcomes.	Mary Lively, <i>Summers County Schools</i>	Preston Boardroom (24) 4th Floor

Vendor List

Vendor	Contact Information
Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC)	Katie Arbaugh and Tina Wiseman katie.o.arbaugh@wv.gov tina.e.wiseman@wv.gov
Education Associates – Project Discovery	CJ Hirschman cjhirschman@educationassociates.com
Findhelp.org	Kraig Dalton and Richard Grooms kdalton@findhelp.com rgrooms@findhelp.com
Job Squad	Travis Kline tkline@jobsquadinc.org
NuSkool Scholars	Derek Pugh nuskoolscholars@gmail.com
Olmstead Council	Carissa Davis carissa.a.davis@wv.gov

Vendor	Contact Information
PLACE LLC	Teri Marx teri.marx@placellc.org
Practical Assessment Exploration System - PAES	Tanner Amaral tanner@paesauthor.com
Social Security Administration	Kimberly Stephens kimberly.stephens@ssa.gov
University Startups	Kelly Dalton kdalton@university-startups.com
WV ABLE	Roxanne Clay roxanne.clay@wvsto.gov
West Virginia Advisory Council for the Education of Exceptional Children (WVCEEC)	Dawn Embrey-King and Ashley Orndorff dembreyking@k12.wv.us ahaynes1029@gmail.com
West Virginia Assistive Technology (WVATS)	Douglas Cumpston douglas.cumpston@hsc.wvu.edu
West Virginia Disability Rights (WVDR)	Alia Tanner atanner@dprofwv.org
West Virginia Junior College	Christina Hayslett and Christina Jarrell christina.hayslett@wvjc.edu christina.jarrell@wvjc.edu
West Virginia Relay Services	John Burdette john.burdette8@t-mobile.com jwburdette90@gmail.com
West Virginia Wesleyan College	Jodee Wilt wilt.j@wwc.edu
WV PTI	Brenda Lamkin brendalwvpti@aol.com

Hotel Map

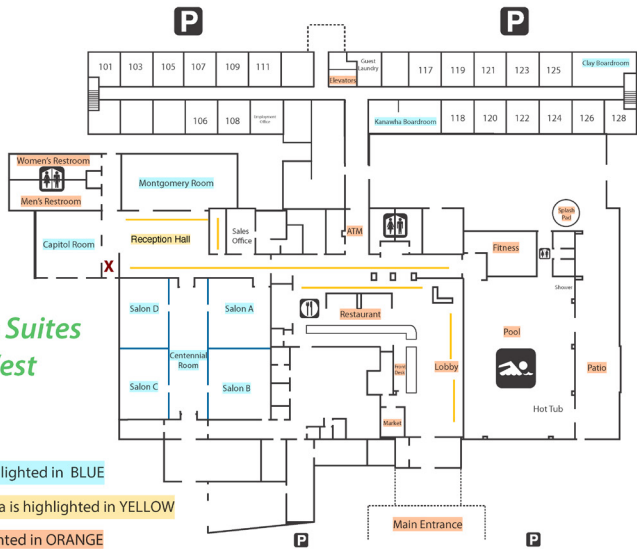
Holiday Inn & Suites Charleston West

Conference rooms are highlighted in BLUE

Food and Vendor Walk Area is highlighted in YELLOW

Common Areas are highlighted in ORANGE

X Check in EACH day HERE



6th Floor	601	603	605	607	609	611	613	615	617	619	621	623	625	Monroe
	600	602	604	606	608	610	612	614	616	618	620	622	624	Tyler
5th Floor	501	503	505	507	509	511	513	515	517	519	521	523	525	
	500	502	504	506	508	510	512	514	516	518	520	522	524	
4th Floor	401	403	405	407	409	411	413	415	417	419	421	423	425	Preston
	400	402	404	406	408	410	412	414	416	418	420	422	424	426
3rd Floor	301	303	305	307	309	311	313	315	317	319	321	323	325	Brooke
	300	302	304	306	308	310	312	314	316	318	320	322	324	326
2nd Floor	201	203	205	207	209	211	213	215	217	219	221	223	225	Morgan
	200	202	204	206	208	210	212	214	216	218	220	222	224	226

Hotel Driving Directions

The Holiday Inn & Suites is visible from the highway at I-64 and the Montrose Drive exit:

- » Traveling from North: I-77S/I79S to I-64 West toward Huntington, go 4 miles to Exit 56 — Montrose Drive Exit.
- » Traveling from South: I-77N to I-64 West, go 3 miles to Exit 56 — Montrose Drive Exit.
- » Traveling from East: I-64 West towards Huntington, take Exit 56 — Montrose Drive Exit.
- » Traveling from West: I-64 East towards Charleston, take Exit 56 — Montrose Drive Exit.
- » Traveling from Yeager Airport: Follow road exiting the airport, becomes Greenbrier Street at intersection; stay right at intersection and follow the signs for downtown Charleston. Take I-77N/I-64 West, follow I-64 after road splits, go 3 miles to Exit 56 — Montrose Drive Exit.

Hotel Wi-Fi Instructions

Instructions for logging onto Wi-Fi if you have VPN installed on your device:

1. Disconnect or exit any VPN software.
2. Connect to the Wi-Fi (Network is IHG ONE REWARDS). No password needed.
 - 2a. Make sure the clock on the PC has the correct date and time. This will cause the next step to fail.
 - 2b. If it has been more than a year since updates were installed or you use Internet Explorer, you may have an issue with step 3. Open a (current) Internet browser and enter access code (CRWCH). Wait for the “You’re connected” message. Go to a website as a test. If the website loads, then proceed to step 4. If it does not, then go back to step 1 and repeat.
3. Open and connect to VPN.



Michele L. Blatt
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

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