

Job Foundation Information Brief for School Partners

This information brief is intended to provide information about the Job Foundation project for school partners.

Job Foundation is a cross-agency, multi-year pilot to connect students with disabilities who are eligible for services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) with employment providers. As a companion to this information brief, we have developed a 10-minute [overview video](#) and [slides](#) with project information for school partners.

Project Priorities

The purpose of Job Foundation is to:

- Engage students with disabilities ages 19 to 20 in targeted employment planning and connection by providing job foundation reports that reflect assessment in the areas of Communication Skills, Interactive Social Skills, Self-Advocacy Skills, Task Management Skill, Work Interest Exploration, Critical Documents and Enrollments.
- Increase partnerships between employment providers and school staff to complete a student-centered Job Foundation Report that includes actionable next steps for employment; and
- Increase the number of students exiting the school system with a job or a connection to secondary education.

Project Partners:

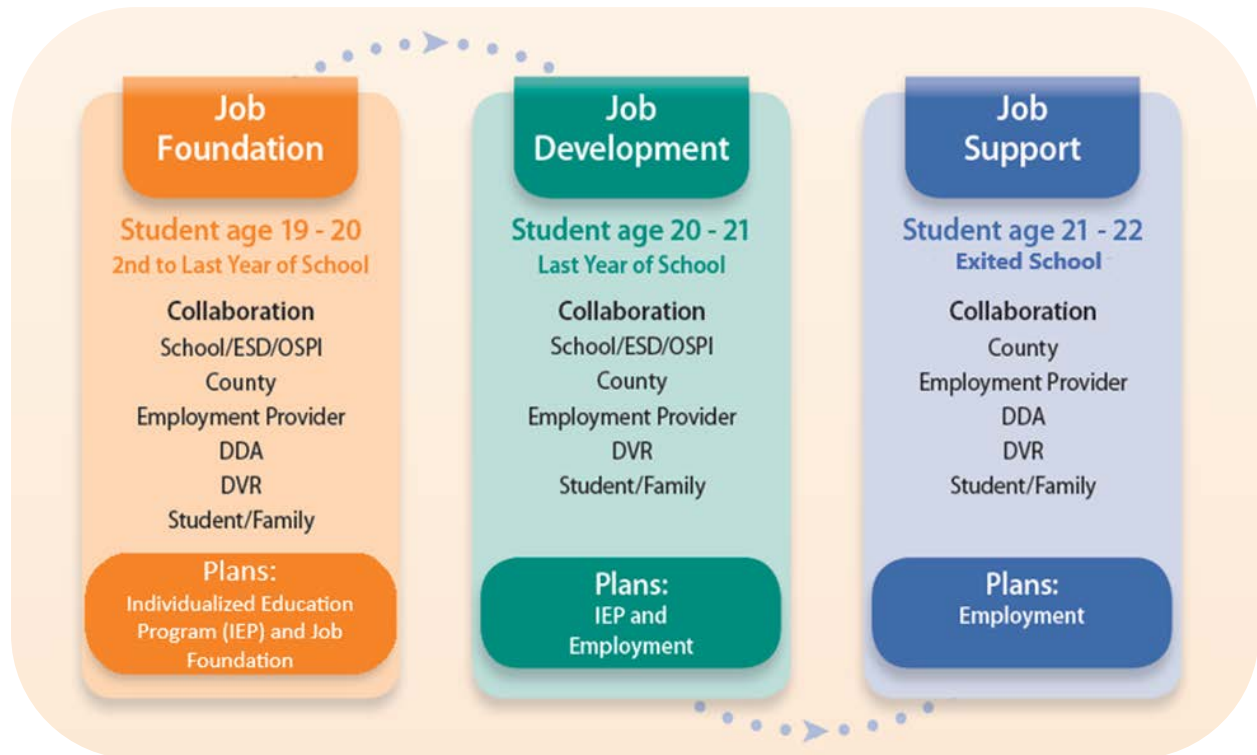
- Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)
- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)
- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
- Counties
- Employment providers
- Educational Service Districts (ESDs)
- Schools
- Families
- Students

Participating Counties

During the 2020-21 school year, 20 counties participated in Job Foundation statewide. For additional information about Job Foundation and for an interactive map of where the project is available by county, visit the [DDA County Best Practices webpage](#) and scroll down to the section titled *Value Based Payment Project*.



Job Foundations Suggested Timelines



How School Partners Can Support the Job Foundation Project

Job Foundation is an amazing opportunity for students with disabilities to receive direct support from an employment provider earlier in their educational careers. The Job Foundation report is also a product that can provide valuable, student-specific transition information for special education case managers and IEP teams.

There are several ways school partners can help this project be successful for students and families:

- Share information about Job Foundation with students, families, and school staff.
- Facilitate provider access to student records, in line security protocols and with signed release of authorization.
- Facilitate provider access to student observation during instruction and community and employment activities, when feasible.

Job Foundation Contact

If school partners would like to learn more about Job Foundation and how to help students and families get connected, please contact Rod Duncan, DDA Administrator, at rod.duncan@dshs.wa.gov or Tania May, OSPI Director of Special Education, at tania.may@k12.wa.us.