

Employment & Disability

Expanding Employment Opportunities

Did You Know?

13.5%

Disability affects approximately 13.5% of the U.S. population.

24%

In 2023, 24% of individuals with disability (18-64 years) lived in poverty compared to 10% of individuals without disability.

Source:
Annual Disability
Statistics Compendium
U.S. Bureau of
Labor Statistics



Nearly 8 in 10 individuals with disabilities were not in the labor force in 2025, compared with 3 in 10 of those with no disability.

17%

In 2023, 17% of individuals ages 25 and over with disabilities had less than a high school education compared to only 9% of those without a disability.

What Can You Do?

Increase Awareness

Discuss employment options at an early age during IEP meetings. Attend local job fairs and reach out to your contacts in local businesses. Share employment success stories of students with disabilities to create understanding, stimulate imagination, and increase awareness of all stakeholders.

Raise Expectations

Clearly communicate high expectations to students at a young age. Visit the I'm Determined website for information and opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determined behavior.

[ImDetermined.org](https://www.ImDetermined.org)

Enhance Collaborations

Develop a working knowledge of the services for students transitioning into competitive employment. Invite agencies and community partners to IEP meetings.

Implement Better Practices

Provide students with disabilities access to more rigorous coursework, career readiness curriculum, and effective practices that will lead to competitive, integrated employment. Review the effective practices and predictors for post-school success from the National Technical Assistance Center on Transition. [TransitionTA.org](https://www.TransitionTA.org)