

Determining Educational Environment Coding for Students with Disabilities Participating in DRS Secondary Transitional Experience Programs (STEP)

Criteria to be considered General Education Environment

A student's educational environment can be recorded as general education when the student is in a *competitive employment* position with the following components:

- In the *community* (e.g., outside of the school campus)
- Student receives *at least minimum wage* reimbursement and if applicable, fringe benefits
- *Integrated job site...*
 - where most co-workers do not have disabilities and individuals with disabilities are not part of a work group of other individuals with disabilities, *or*
 - where most co-workers do not have disabilities *and* if a job site as described above is not possible, individuals are part of a small work group of not more than 8 individuals with disabilities, *or*
 - if there are no co-workers or the only co-workers are members of a small work group of not more than 8 individuals (all of whom have disabilities), individuals with disabilities have regular contact with non-disabled individuals *other than* personnel providing support services in the work setting.
- *Unsubsidized* – wages are paid in full by the employer and there are no reimbursements from any sources, i.e., DHS/DRS, WIA, etc.

Criteria to be considered Special Education Environment

A student's educational environment is recorded as special education when he/she does not yet meet competitive employment standards and includes one or more of the following STEP components:

- *Work-related class* (e.g., STEP classroom experience in career exploration, job seeking skills, etc.)
- *Job Shadowing* (e.g. learning about a job by spending time with a person who is working in a career)
- *Job Coaching* – on-the-job support provided by school personnel
- *Independent Living Skills Training* (e.g., classroom or community-based instruction, provided/supervised by school personnel, in skill areas other than vocational development such as transportation, meal preparation, household management, etc.)
- *On the Job Evaluation/Training (OJE/OJT)* (e.g., a training experience where a person is evaluated in terms of aptitudes and abilities, work speed, work skills ability to learn, quality of work performed and work behaviors) OJE/OJT is used to develop basic job skills that would lead to competitive employment
- *OJE/OJT Funded Training* - refers to funds used for evaluation, training, and supervision of students who do not meet competitive employment standards. Includes a payment schedule that increases employer participation based on the student's progress.
- *On-Campus Experiences* (e.g., experience in any school setting, closely supervised...often a student's first training experience in preparation for community placements and/or competitive employment)