

Merging Transition, Special, and Secondary Education Project (MTSS)

USDE, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services (OSERS)

CFDA 84.325k-2E

Ed Grant Number: H325K110503

Start Date: 09/01/11

End Date: 08/30/16

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Purpose: The MTSS is a five-year project that will provide scholarships to 36 or more students in the Secondary Dual Educator's Program (SDEP) that merges content area teaching and special education pedagogy. SDEP is a full-time two-year graduate program that culminates in full licensure as a secondary special educator and a secondary teacher in a content area (with authorization to teach mid-level and/or high school), and a Masters degree in Education (M.Ed.).

Methods: In addition to the teacher preparation provided by SDEP the MTSS Scholars will also develop competencies for supporting the transition of youth with disabilities living in poverty to post-secondary education and employment. In partnership with faculty in Rehabilitation Counseling and Social Work, pre-service MTSS Scholars, vocational rehabilitation counselors, and social workers will form multi-disciplinary teams to work with high-need youth with disabilities in a process of student-directed transition planning-to-action, interagency collaboration, and resource identification. These teams will also learn research-based practices for supporting the transition of youth with disabilities in foster care. Project partners include Parkrose, David Douglas, Centennial, and Reynolds school districts, each of which serves a high proportion of youth living in poverty. Evaluation of project outcomes includes examining graduates' transition practices and their students' post-school outcomes.

Impact on Community: Preparing teachers and others to improve the post-school outcomes of high-need youth.