

6 FAST FACTS

Supported Employment

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Supported employment is an evidence-based practice for improving competitive integrated employment outcomes for individuals with extensive support needs.

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It is designed for individuals with the most significant disabilities who require intensive and ongoing supports.

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Individuals with intellectual disability who receive supported employment have higher rates of employment, work more hours, and have higher earnings than individuals with intellectual disability who do not receive supported employment.

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During supported employment, an employment specialist assesses the individual's skills and interests, matches them with a job in the community, provides on-the-job training until job mastery, and offers ongoing support for as long as the person is employed.

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Transition personnel can assist employment specialists to identify appropriate job placements by sharing vocational assessment data gathered across the student's school program.

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Transition personnel can also share information with employment specialists about effective strategies for supporting the student at the work site (e.g., instructional strategies, assistive technology, communication techniques, behavior supports).

This fact sheet was developed by the Illinois Center for Transition and Work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign through a contract with the Illinois State Board of Education. Information presented may not reflect the position or policy of the Illinois State Board of Education.

