



Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)

**CSAVR/NASDSE – Collaboration on the
implementation of the new transition
requirements in WIOA**

**PRESENTING: Bill East, Executive Director, NASDSE
Steve Wooderson, CEO, CSAVR
October 8, 2015**



Temperature



CSAVR

- EMPLOYMENT
- Clear intent to increase VR role in transition
- Competitive Integrated Employment and STEM
- Partnerships
- WIOA vs IDEA

NASDSE

- College & career ready
- Competitive Integrated Employment
- ESEA then IDEA
- Services required at age 16
- SSIP & RBA (aka RDA)

Fixes to Improve Outcomes

- Change laws through reauthorization
- Revise regulations
- Federal and state “new interpretations or expectations”
- Develop state and/or local MOUs



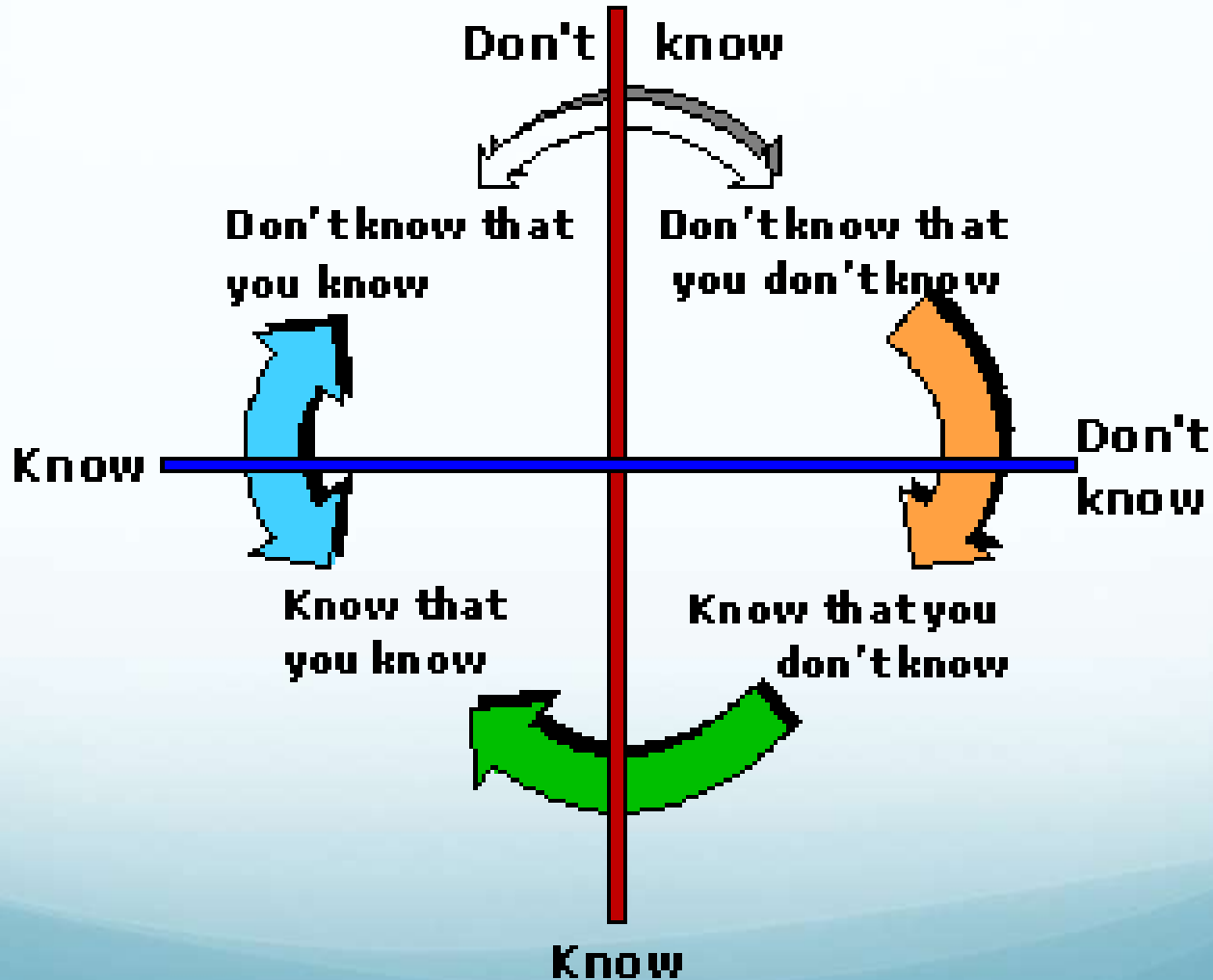


Where Are We in the WIOA Implementation Process?

- WIOA signed July 22, 2015
- Informal comment period
- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)
 - Issued April 16, 2015
 - Comments were due June 15, 2015
- Waiting regulations
 - “High Anxiety” times
 - However, implementation has started



What we DO Know vs. DON'T Know





Key Definitions

- **Student With a Disability**
 - Age for transition services under IDEA (16) or earlier if the state has decided to provide Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) at an earlier age
 - Is not older than 21 (or the state's maximum age)
 - Is an individual with a disability
- **Youth With a Disability**
 - Is not younger than 14
 - Is not older than 24



Key Definitions

The Designated State Unit, **in *collaboration with LEA shall:***

- provide or arrange pre-employment transition services (PETS) for all Students With Disabilities
- who are eligible ***or potentially eligible for services***



Parent Involvement



- How will VR and SP ED work together to develop strategies to increase parental involvement in work readiness/PETS activities?
- VR will be working with younger students, and will have less “administrative” reasons (e.g., Individual Plan for Employment [IPEs]) to have parents at the table



WIOA Transition Services Summary

- Expands population and services to youth and students
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) - 15% set aside of federal grant for students
- Designed to provide a continuum of VR services
- Pre Employment Transition Services to any student with a disability, even if not yet applied for services
- Permits services to youth with disabilities prior to seeking intensive VR services



WIOA Transition Services Summary

- Services to youth or students 14-24; in or out of school
 - Hope is to reduce costs and administrative burden
 - Self advocacy, job fairs, college tours – group activities
- 50% of Supported Employment dollars must be spent on youth
- Subminimum wage (Section 511) (takes effect 7/22/2016)



Pre Employment Transition Services

- **5 Required** for “students” (ages 16-21) with disability – 15% of agency federal award
- “Youth” (ages 14-24) with a disability can be included, but do not count toward the 15%
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Counseling...comprehensive transition services or post-secondary education programs in IHEs
 - Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
 - Instruction in self-advocacy



Pre Employment Transition Services

- **Authorized** – AFTER 15% is spent on 5 required on STUDENTS, may provide following Authorized services:
 - Independent living and inclusion strategies
 - Independent living, postsecondary education, competitive integrated employment
 - Instruction for VR counselors, school transition personnel, others
 - Disseminating information on innovative, effective and efficient approaches



Pre Employment Transition Services

- Authorized (2)
 - Coordination with IDEA services provided by LEAs
 - Applying evidenced-based findings to improve policy, procedure, practice and the preparation of personnel
 - Model transition demonstration projects/establishing multi-state partnerships
 - Disseminate information/strategies to improve transition to postsecondary activities for traditionally underserved populations



Transition Services Coordination

- Attend IEP meeting when invited
 - VR counselor may not be able to attend all
 - Virtual, telephonic, etc
- Work with workforce development
 - Internships, summer employment, school year employment, apprenticeships
- Work with schools to coordinate and ensure provision of Pre Employment Transition Services
- Attend person centered planning meetings for Title XIX (Medicaid) – when invited



WIOA Transition Services Summary

- In sum, VR is to provide a range of services, from basic to intensive individualized services.
- *“Nothing...reduces the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act...of a local educational agency or any other agency to provide or pay for any transition services that are also considered special education or related services and that are necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities...”*

Fixes to Improve Outcomes

- Change laws through reauthorization
- Revise regulations
- Federal and state “new interpretations or expectations”
- Develop state and/or local MOUs



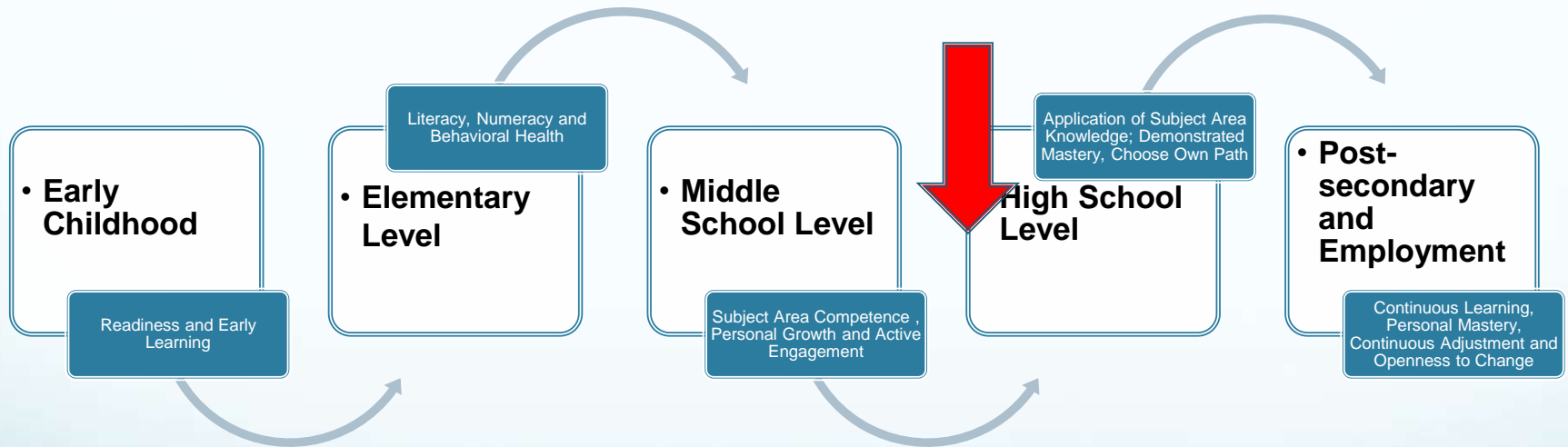
Bill's Questions for Steve

- What do state directors need to know about VR's linkage to state labor agencies (America's Jobs Centers or One Stops)?
- What do you wish special education directors would do to help ensure compliance with WIOA?
- What are some examples of what state VR agencies are doing to coordinate with schools to develop new programs for PETS?



WIOA

Strengthening Connections in Transition



Special Ed. & Voc. Reh. Collaborating to Meet IDEA Requirements

- Coordinate activities with results focus
- Collaborate on IEPs and ISPs
- Collaborate on Summary of Performance (SoP)
- Facilitate appropriate movement from school to post-school opportunities
- Indicator 14 – use the data
- VR representative on advisory panel/committees
- Collaborative advocacy





Common Challenges



- What to do about sheltered workshops (e.g. Lane v Brown). Competitive integrated employment.
- Appropriate services in era of dwindling resources
- Personnel qualifications
- What should NASDSE and CSAVR advocate for in the IDEA reauthorization?
- Labor vs Education
- Business partnerships

Persistent Challenges

- **Technical Challenge**

Requires information, knowledge or tools

- **Adaptive (*Relationship*) Challenges**

Requires understanding and a willingness to make behavior changes



Four Simple Questions for Collaboration

- Who cares about this and why?
- What work is already underway separately?
- What shared work could unite us?
- How can we deepen our connections?



Youth as Stakeholders

Tokenism doesn't get it done!

Authentic engagement required!





Questions/Ideas

