

# Oregon Youth Transition Program 1989-2006 Program Fact Sheet

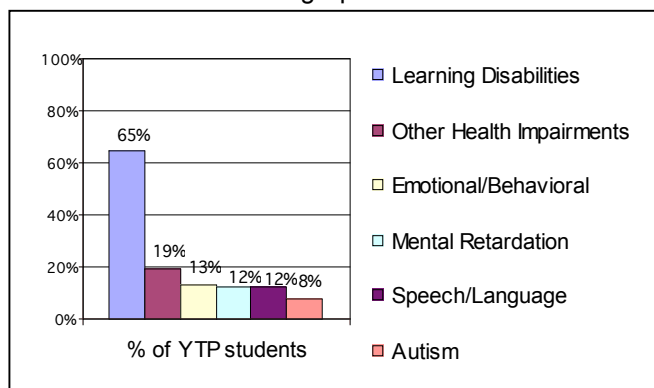
The Youth Transition Program (YTP) is an Oregon Vocational Rehabilitation Services program that serves youth with disabilities statewide. YTP operates as a partnership between OVRS and local school districts with a team from the University of Oregon contracted to provide training and technical assistance. ***The purpose of the program is to prepare high school youth with disabilities for employment or career related post secondary education or training.***

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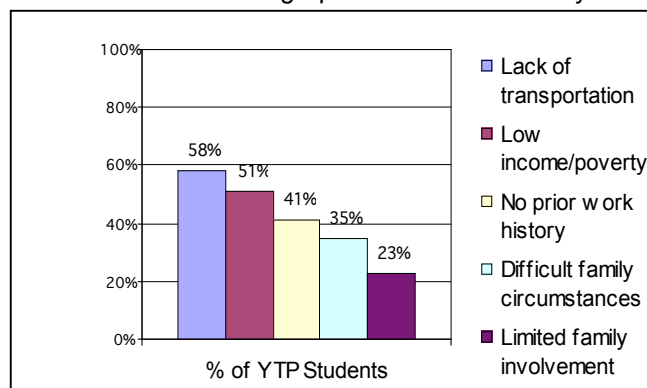
## Who does YTP serve?

- ❖ Over the last 15 years, YTP has provided direct services and VR access for over 8000 students with disabilities; YTP currently operates in more than 120 high schools in Oregon

Student Demographics: Disabilities



Student Demographics: Barriers at Entry



## Key Features of the YTP model

- ❖ **State level support** for local capacity building
- ❖ **Matching funding model:** OVRS and local school districts
- ❖ **Dedicated staff time** to provide transition services; Individualized transition planning
- ❖ **Collaboration** between school personnel, Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities, Brokerages, other service providers; coordination of school and post-school service provision and planning
- ❖ **Career development** services – goal setting, career exploration, job search skills, self advocacy
- ❖ Emphasis on **paid employment** – connection with local employers, development of school-based businesses, on the job assessment and training
- ❖ Positive **adult mentoring** and role modeling
- ❖ **Flexibility and adaptability** of program components for each community

## Lessons Learned

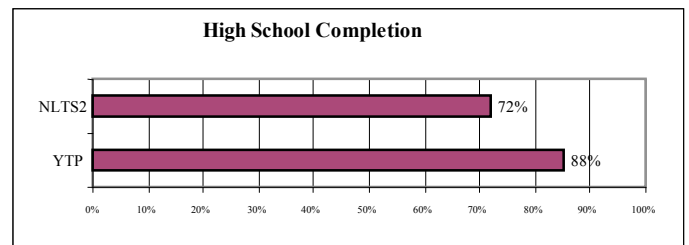
- ❖ Transition for youth necessitates **collaboration** between service providers at multiple levels (e.g., public schools, State Departments of Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disability Services, community colleges, etc.) on a consistent, ongoing basis.
- ❖ **Collaborative funding and dedicated staff time** in high school for transition for students with disabilities is a cost-effective and worthwhile investment.
- ❖ Youth need **support and infrastructure** to assist them in obtaining meaningful employment.
- ❖ **Community businesses** are key partners in training and employing youth with disabilities.
- ❖ **Ongoing technical assistance and training** is needed to facilitate collaborations between stakeholders, meet the needs of specific populations; and create capacity within local schools and VR offices.

## Outcome Data (July 1, 2003 – June 30, 2005)

### High School Completion:

Out of 673 students exited during the biennium, 593 received a high school completion certificate (88%).

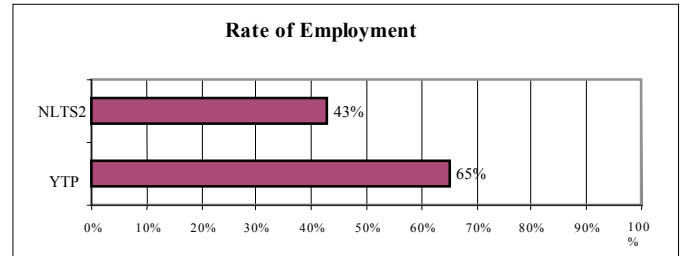
- 260 'Other' Diplomas (38%)
- 327 'Standard' Diplomas (50%)



### Employment:

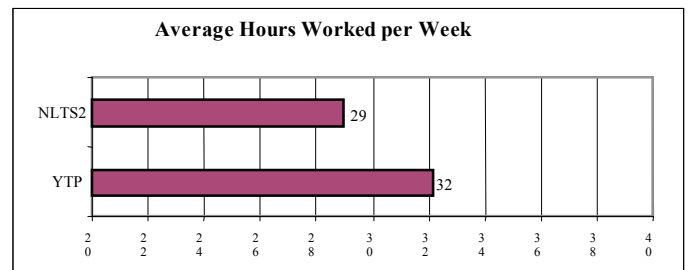
#### Rate of Employment

During the first year after completing the program, an average of 65% of YTP youth are employed.



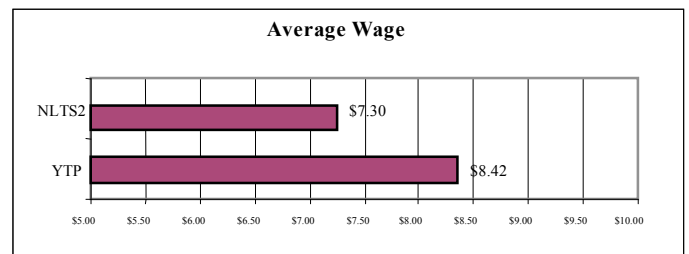
#### Average Hours Worked

During the first year after completing the program, YTP youth work an average of 32 hours per week.



#### Average Wage

During the first year after completing the program, employed YTP youth earn an average of \$8.42 per hour.



### Return on Investment

During the 03-05 Biennium, a total of 425 youth were employed at exit. Based on average wage and hours worked per week, the estimated tax revenue *per month* through this employment was \$108,642. Projected *across the biennium* (24 months), these youth generated roughly \$2,607,402 in tax revenue.