



What is Discovering ME!?

Discovering ME! is a youth-centered transition assessment and planning process. It is designed to build early customized work-based learning experiences for individuals with significant barriers to employment. The long-term goal is that all students find and maintain employment in careers that best match their strengths and contributions, interests, challenges, and conditions for success.

Discovering ME! **Benefits**

Discovering ME! provides teams with a way of focusing on the student's strengths and interests in a way that is both positive and empowering. Benefits include:

- Provides a meeting structure and schedule designed to fit within a reasonable time frame.
- Invites family, agencies, and schools into a collaborative partnership.
- Gives stakeholders a voice and a way to have conversations early about transition.
- Provides parents and students a more positive view of what their future will look like while increasing expectations within the home, school, and community.
- Offers user-friendly forms and a structure that helps to prepare a coordinated IEP.
- Provides all materials to implement process.

Three-Meeting **Process**

Discovering ME! includes three meetings during the first year of the student's participation. The team collects student information to build activities in the home, school, and community that will expand work-based learning opportunities and explore potential careers. Meetings are comprised of the student, family, educators, community agency partners, and others who will contribute to better understanding the student.

Meeting **One**

Collect information through a team interview.

Meeting **Two**

Assess to identify related job assets and needs before building customized work-based learning opportunities.

Meeting **Three**

Explore the 17 Career Clusters and build pre-employment opportunities related to the student's chosen career clusters.

After the First Year of **Discovering ME!**

Student teams focus on updating information and extending, enhancing, and refining the opportunities developed in the first year. Discovering ME! teams meet only twice in later years and may continue meeting until students achieve their employment goals.