

# Transition Connections Academy

Beyond 4 Years of High School

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) Transition Connections Academy was designed to provide additional learning opportunities, more importantly, work-based learning experiences (WBLEs) beyond students' four years in high school. The Academy is open to students with significant disabilities, ages 18 to 21. Academy placement is an IEP team decision based on each student's educational needs and level of independence.

The Academy was designed in collaboration with a variety of community partners to provide the best possible learning opportunities for students. Our partners include Carroll Community College, Carroll Hospital, McDaniel College, Division of Rehabilitation Services, local community rehabilitation providers, members of the Carroll business community, as well as local government and law enforcement agencies. These partnerships have correlated to post-school success in the areas of independent living, community participation, and employment for students of CCPS.

The Academy is comprised of five seamless transition programs, aligned with evidence-based practices, and implemented to increase the number of youth actively engaged in post-secondary activities such as education, technical and career training, and employment after exiting CCPS. All programs focus heavily on enhancing independence and increasing students' individual capacity in the areas of functional academics, independent living, self-determination/self-advocacy, career development and communication and social skills.

The use of technology, including a variety of light and high-tech devices for communication, specialized software and apps for reading and written communication and using cell phones as tools, is integrated into each program to enable authentic communication and enhance independence. The anticipated outcome is competitive integrated employment for all students.

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## The Academy Includes

TE@M

Transition Education @  
McDaniel

**Location** - On the Campus of McDaniel College, this program is designed for students with the highest level of independence.

**Focus** - Academic and social skills, career and employment resource planning, self-determination/self-advocacy, and work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)

**Outcome** - Full-time competitive employment without supports

**Support** - Provided and faded as independence increases

**Examples of work-based experiences at McDaniel College include:**

Conference Services, Dining Hall, Theatre, Post Office, Risk Management, Grounds Keeping

TE@CH

Transition Education @  
Carroll Hospital

**Location** - Housed at Carroll Hospital, this program is designed for students with the highest level of independence.

**Focus** - Academic and social skills, career and employment resource planning, self-determination/self-advocacy, and work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)

**Outcome** - Full-time competitive employment without supports

**Support** - Provided and faded as independence increases

**Examples of work-based experiences at Carroll Hospital include:**

Supply Chain, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Food Service, Respiratory Therapy, Family Birth Center

ST@CC

Seamless Transition @  
Carroll Community

**Location** - On the Campus of Carroll Community College, this program is designed for students with the highest level of independence.

**Focus** - Academic and social skills, career and employment resource planning, self-determination/self-advocacy, and work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)

**Outcome** - Full-time competitive employment without supports

**Support** - Provided and faded as independence increases

**Examples of work-based experiences at Carroll Community College include**

Carroll Community College Bookstore, Continuing Education, Café Stocking, Café Food Prep, Environmental Services, Campus Police

## TOPS

### Transition Opportunities for Personal Growth

**Location** - On the Campus of Carroll Springs School, this program is designed for students with a moderate level of independence

**Focus** - Functional academics, career management, communication and social skills, self-determination, residential living skills, lifetime health and fitness, computer skills, and work-based learning experiences (WBLEs)

**Outcome** - At least part-time competitive employment with minimal supports

**Support** - Provided and faded as independence increases

**Examples of volunteer work-based experiences include:** *Custodial* - Carroll County Government, Bureau of Facilities, Carroll County Public Schools; *Community Services* - Salvation Army, Humane Society; *Clerical* - Carroll County Public Library; *Childcare* - Little Friends of Grace Preschool, Crossroads Christian Preschool

## CITY

### Community Integration for Transitioning Youth

**Location** - Housed in the community, this program is designed for students who need a higher level of support

**Focus** - The program focuses on functional academics, daily living skills, communication and social skills, and volunteer work-based learning experiences (WBLEs) in an enclave setting  
Job coaching support is continual

**Outcome** - Volunteer work-based experiences and/or part-time competitive employment in a small group setting with full-time/part time supervision

**Support** - Full-time supervision provided in a group setting

**Examples of volunteer work-based experiences using an enclave model include:** *Food Service* - Pizza Hut; *Retail* – Food Lion, Boscov's; *Custodial* – Planet Fitness & St. Paul's Church