

Employment Training for Students with Disabilities



Although employment rates for the general public continue to improve along with a robust economy, people with disabilities are still substantially underrepresented in the American workforce. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only **20.5%** of adults with disabilities were engaged in the workforce while **68.3%** of their nondisabled peers were employed or seeking employment (January 2019).

Triangle programs address three major barriers to employment and independence facing youth with disabilities:

Problem

Solution

1.

Students with disabilities lack work experience before turning 22, the age when they no longer receive support from school-based programs.

Triangle programs provide students with supported work experiences and trainings, allowing them to develop a work history and build their employment skills before adulthood.

2.

Youth with disabilities often lack local community engagement due to out-placement at specialty schools. This leads to a lack of knowledge and a network necessary to find a job.

Triangle programs are all community-based, allowing students to build a resume and make connections with local employers while avoiding costly out-of-district placements.

3.

Families of students with disabilities face a daunting transition as their loved ones age out of school-provided services at the age of 22, often falling into a reliance on benefits.

By participating in Triangle programs as a student, families have the option of continuing on with Triangle services, offering a smooth transition that avoids an interruption to an individual's services and growth.



we are all people with ability

Triangle, Inc.

Triangle-Inc.org

[TriangleOrg](https://www.facebook.com/TriangleOrg)

[TriangleOrg](https://www.instagram.com/TriangleOrg)

[TriangleInc](https://twitter.com/TriangleInc)

[Triangle, People with Ability](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Triangle%2C%20People%20with%20Ability)

Return on Investment

Since receiving funding in the Commonwealth's budget, Triangle has implemented innovative employment training programs for special education students in Brockton, Canton, Chelsea, Marblehead, Melrose, Randolph, Salem, and Stoughton. **Services funded through the DESE earmark are strengthening each student's chance for brighter economic futures, creating a win-win situation for the Commonwealth.** For every future career that Triangle launches with your support, we are lessening a future generation's reliance on public benefits as they grow into empowered, independent, and employed adults who are active participants in their local communities.

Did you know?

*Statistics show that DDS-funded individuals who work at least 20 hours/week for a standard career of 45 years can save local taxpayers as much as **\$560,000** during their working life.*

20 students earn or earned paychecks paying at least minimum wage through supported employment programs. In the past three years, six of these students have been placed into independent jobs after receiving support and guidance from Triangle staff members. Several of these students have successfully transitioned into Triangle's adult programming, which allows them to continue to work on their long-term goals of community-based, independent employment.

30 students received a pre-employment training "boot camp" in their schools that allowed them to develop both the social and practical skills needed to enter the workplace. In total, these sessions included more than 60 hours of classroom instruction from Triangle employment specialists.

Triangle's career pathway programs have opened doors for more than 15 additional students in the retail and property maintenance fields. **We are currently offering a paraprofessional training program to 15 students to enter careers in early childhood education.** This includes instruction through a hybrid in-person/online model, individualized support to each student, and assistance in finding and securing employment once they are certified.



Moving Forward

With continued and increased support from the Commonwealth, Triangle will continue to be an innovator in the disability services field by engaging students early with effective programs. In the past year, Triangle, Inc. has grown its capacity to serve students by expanding our service site in Salem from 5,000 to 10,000 square feet. We have approached the Brockton Public School system to provide programs to one of the largest high schools in the state. **We currently support 50 students annually with this earmark. With your continued support and demand we are receiving for these vital services, we expect that number to jump dramatically by 2021.**

