



Dream. Learn. Live. Earn.

How can I pay for Postsecondary Education (PSE)?

Consider all the possible funding options.

Still in school? Explore these funding sources:

1. Transition services for students with disabilities may include postsecondary education. The IEP (Individualized Education Plan) is always based on the individual needs of the student.
2. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation's (OVR) Pre-Employment Transition Services can also be considered. Contact your school district for information.

Already Graduated from High School? Explore these funding sources:

1. Explore scholarships and other savings programs.
2. Waiver funding through Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) for intellectual disability services. Education Support Services can help pay for college tuition, classroom support and tutoring.
3. OVR: If the college is a Comprehensive Transition Program, consider OVR funding.
4. Benefits: Individuals receiving SSI and SSDI should explore ways to put money aside to pay college expenses.

Need more information?

- Contact your local school district. Talk to a professional knowledgeable about transition services.
- Contact your local Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Contact your local county program to learn about services for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Check out these websites:
www.dreampartnership.org
www.thinkcollege.net

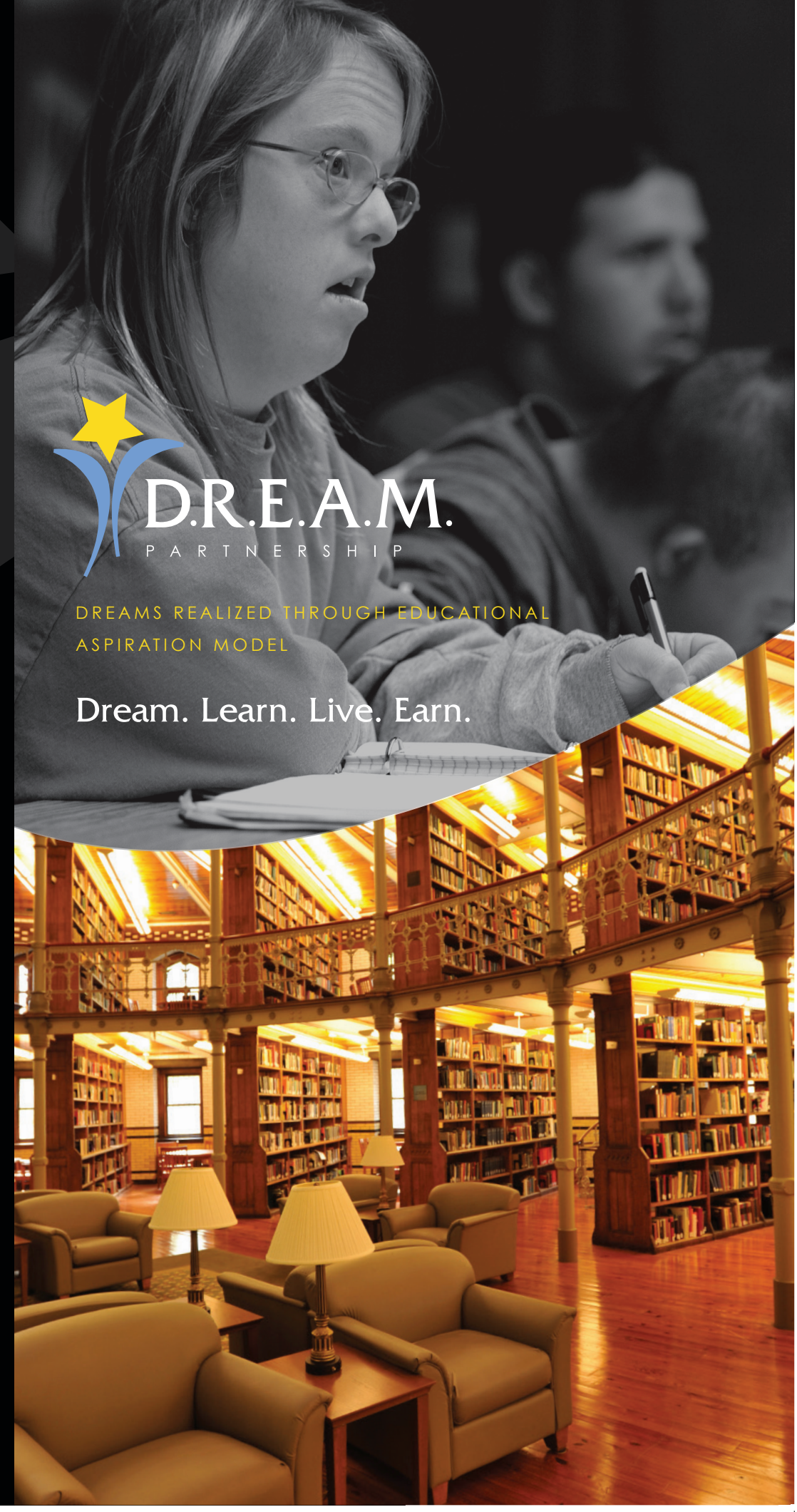


D.R.E.A.M.
P A R T N E R S H I P

D.R.E.A.M. Partnership's leadership in postsecondary education programs will empower individuals of all abilities to work, live and contribute to a better society.

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P A R T N E R S H I P

DREAMS REALIZED THROUGH EDUCATIONAL
ASPIRATION MODEL

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The D.R.E.A.M. Partnership was formed by parents and professionals in Central Pennsylvania who have extensive knowledge related to students with intellectual disabilities and post-secondary education. There are limited options for students with intellectual disabilities after high school, but we want to change that. **College is an option and the D.R.E.A.M. Partnership can help students with intellectual disabilities live their dream, after high school and beyond.**

About us

THE D.R.E.A.M. Partnership is establishing a network of colleges in the state of Pennsylvania to provide educational opportunities for individuals with intellectual disabilities through a certificate program that leads to competitive employment and independent living.

The Mission of D.R.E.A.M. Partnership is to develop a selection of postsecondary educational opportunities, including dormitory options, which lead to independent living and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities in Pennsylvania.

The objectives of D.R.E.A.M. Partnership are to:

- Provide funding to institutions of higher education in Pennsylvania for the development and implementation of postsecondary education programs for students with intellectual disabilities.
- Build the knowledge, skills, and capabilities of colleges to provide postsecondary education while simultaneously generating awareness among consumers, family members, educators, and the community at large that college is an option for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
- Provide scholarship opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities.

There is life after high school. For everyone.

College for students with intellectual disabilities is important. Transition from high school to employment and adult life is difficult for any young person. It is extremely difficult for those students with intellectual disabilities. A young adult with an intellectual disability can remain in school until they are 21. This often means remaining in life skills classes for 2-3 years with younger students and repeating classes that have already been taken. There are very few options for continuing education or vocational training to properly prepare students with ID for independent adult life.

Going to college is and always has been connected to greater rates of employment and higher wages. **Data from the National Vocational Rehabilitation database show that youth with intellectual disabilities who participated in postsecondary education were 26% more likely to leave vocational rehabilitation services with a paid job and earn a 73% higher weekly income.**

Lifelong learning promotes academic, professional, and personal development for all citizens to live lives of dignity and purpose. When students with intellectual disabilities go to college, positive impacts emerge for everyone involved. The educational institution is improved. The lives of peer students are enriched. The community is enhanced. The economy is strengthened. And the world becomes a better place.

Benefits to students with intellectual disabilities:

- **Attainment of competitive employment due to graduation or certificate program**
- **Increased independent living skills as a result of dormitory living**
- **Enhanced socialization as a result of peer interactions and extracurricular opportunities**
- **Academic enrichment**