



St Johns County School District Transition Fair Guide

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN EXPLORING POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS (PSE)



About the Program

- What type of experiences will I get from your program?
- What credentials or certifications can I earn?
- What is a typical day like in the program?
- Am I able to defer the receipt of my diploma in order to attend this program?
- What is the tuition cost of the program?
- What does tuition include/cover?
- How many students are in the program?
- How many students will be accepted in the program this year?
- What is the process to apply for the program?
- Are there peer mentors?
- Does the program offer summer courses?



Employment

- What internships are available?
- Are these internships on-campus or off-campus?
- How does the program support me in getting a job?
- Are these internships paid or unpaid?



Extracurricular

- What can I do when I am not in class?
- Are there groups and clubs available on-campus?
- Where do students hang out on and off campus?



Living & Getting Around

- Is on-campus housing available?
- What is the cost of on-campus housing?
- What are food options on campus?
- What types of transportation are available?
- Where are residence halls, the campus career center, library, gym, cafeteria, and game rooms located on-campus?



<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/programs/transition/>



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MY NOTES ON SJCS D TRANSITION FAIR



**Use the boxes under each Vendor to write down what you liked and what you didn't like about the transition program.*



Contact: Sheryl Stanford
Email: Sheryl.Dick-Stanford@apdcares.org
Website: <https://apd.myflorida.com/>

APD works with local organizations and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. APD identifies the service needs of people with developmental disabilities, and those individuals may receive social, medical, behavioral, residential, and/or therapeutic services.

What I liked about the program:

What I did not like about the program:



Contact: The Arc of St. Johns
Email: info@arcsj.org
Website: <https://www.arcsj.org/>

Our Vision

One day people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) will participate as full members of their communities, throughout their lives.

Our Mission

Provide the opportunity for hope, growth, and change to people with I/DD in our community.

What I liked about the program:

What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Sarah Jeter
Email: Sarahjeter@bestbuddies.org
Website: <https://www.bestbuddies.org/>

Best Buddies International is a dynamic and growing organization, thanks to the people that help advance its mission every day. From the Board of Directors to the summer interns, everyone on the Best Buddies team shares their energy and enthusiasm as they work to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



CARD

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System
Center for Autism & Related Disabilities

Contact: Brett Walden
Email: brett.walden@jax.ufl.edu
Website: <https://www.fdlrs.org/>

The purpose of CARD is to provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of individuals with autism spectrum disorders, dual-sensory impairments and related disabilities. CARD services are provided free of charge to individuals with autism and related disabilities, to their families and to the professionals who work with them.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Atheia Gillespie
Email: Agillespie@careersourcenefl.com
Website: <https://careersourcenortheastflorida.com/>

Our Mission

Connecting workers to jobs and businesses to the talent they need to thrive. CareerSource NEFL provides innovative services that build a talent pipeline for the jobs of today and the future.

Our Vision

Northeast Florida will have a world-class workforce development system that enables our businesses to be leaders in the global economy.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Toccara James
Email: tjames@ciljacksonville.org
Website: <https://www.ciljacksonville.org/>

CIL Jacksonville empowers independence for people with disabilities through its programs and services. Each person with a disability receives individualized, self-directed services to achieve their unique independent living goals.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville (DSAJ)
Number: 904.353.6300
Website: <https://dsaj.org/>

The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville (DSAJ) is a non-profit organization committed to helping people with Down syndrome achieve their full potential and to creating a community that is educated, supportive and inclusive of individuals with Down syndrome.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Gregory Sarazua
Email: gsarazua@fl.easterseals.com
Website: <https://www.easterseals.com/florida/>

Easterseals Florida's STRIVE in Hospitality Program assists individuals ages 15 and up with disabilities or other special needs who may desire to become employed in Central Florida's largest industry—Hospitality and Tourism. The 14-week program is a skills training course led by Certified Hospitality Department Trainers. Program Curriculum: Participants will learn the basics of lodging operation and guest services to enable them to succeed while promoting professionalism, self-confidence, positive work ethics, and crucial soft skills needed in the workplace.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Dawn Moore
Email: Dawnw@DisabilityRightsFlorida.org
Website: <https://disabilityrightsflorida.org/>

Disability Rights Florida was founded in 1977 as the statewide designated protection and advocacy system for the State of Florida. Our services are free and confidential.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Wendy Vance
Email: wendy@dogwooddisability.com
Website: <https://dogwooddisability.com/>

Mission

To empower people with disabilities to make informed employment choices based on thorough individual, data-driven vocational information and to change how society and people with disabilities think about disability.

Vision

To increase gainful, integrated employment of choice for people of all ability levels.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Shannon Saunders
Email: ssaunders@employu.org
Website: <https://employu.org/>

employU is a nonprofit disability employment service creating an inclusive workforce for people with disabilities through education, empowerment, and advocacy. we offer adult employment services, youth programs, employability trainings, paid work experience, and a variety of assessments. Our services enhance a customer’s ability to successfully achieve independence by establishing a lifelong career.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Drew Andrews
Email: drew.andrews@ucf.edu
Website: <https://fcsua.org/>

The purpose of the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities is to provide support to students, families, and institutions of higher education so that students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences that lead to employment opportunities.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Anna McDaniel
Email: anna.mcdaniel@flhealth.gov
Website: <https://stjohns.floridahealth.gov/>

Our mission is to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts. At the Florida Department of Health in St. Johns County, we offer a range of Population Health Services and Programs including Children's Immunizations, Public Health Nutrition Services for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and more.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES
Florida Department of Education | dbs.fldoe.org

Contact: Jean Fiore
Email: jjean.fiore@dbs.fldoe.org
Website: <https://dbs.fldoe.org/>

The Florida Division of Blind Services provides blind and visually impaired Floridians with the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success. These supports are quality programs and rehabilitation services which include vocational training, job placement, entrepreneurial opportunities, assistive technology, independent living skills training and services to children and babies.


👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:

God's Glory from Heaven Outreach Ministries

Contact: Kimberly Jones
Email: Gghministry@yahoo.com
Number: (904) 962-2372

We are a Pre-Placement Training Program that offers employment paid training for students ages 14-21


 What I liked about the program:

 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Kimberly Reed
Email: kimberlyr@hope-haven.org
Website: <https://www.hopehaven.org/>

Hope Haven has been serving the greater Jacksonville area for almost 100 years. We provide clinical services: neuropsychological testing (ADHD, ADD, Autism), mental health counseling (ages 3 through adult), and advocacy for families. Through our educational services we offer Discovery School (enrolling ages 3-5 all abilities), Out of School programming, Summer Camps, Employment and Transitional Services (ages 14+) for individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. Our Education Development Services (ages 5-22) supports students with an individualized reading approach covering phonemic awareness, phonics, and comprehension.

 What I liked about the program:

 What I did not like about the program:




Project | SEARCH



Contact: Jennifer Argentina
Email: Jennifer.Argentina@stjohns.k12.fl.us
Website: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/programs/transition/>

Vicar's Landing is a special place. Our team members love working here. Whether you're hoping to take your current career to the next level, Vicar's Landing is the ideal setting. At our luxurious, state-of-the-art residential campus, St. Johns County School District offers unique opportunities through the Project SEARCH program. There are also numerous opportunities to improve vocational skills and develop transferrable skills, which allow our young adult interns to thrive. Student interns will spend an entire school year working through three internships with the support of Vicar's Landing employees, an instructor, and skills trainers. If you are looking for a career in the field of hospitality, then Vicar's Landing could be the setting for you!

 What I liked about the program:

 What I did not like about the program:




Project | SEARCH at



Contact: Byron Pennington
Email: Byron.Pennington@stjohns.k12.fl.us
Website: <https://www.marriott.com/>

St. Johns County School District's first Project SEARCH program began six years ago. Nestled amid America's oldest city, the World Golf Village Renaissance St. Augustine Resort is a relaxing haven and an inclusive environment for student interns to learn and grow. There are also numerous opportunities to improve vocational skills and develop transferrable skills, which allow our young adult interns to thrive. The hotel hosts hundreds of events each year, has beautiful accommodations for guests, and draws people in from all over with the attractions the local area of St. Augustine has to offer, which all help to contribute to diverse internship opportunities for students. Student interns will spend an entire school year working through three internships with the support of Renaissance employees, an instructor, and skills trainers. If you are looking for a career in the field of hospitality, then the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort could be the setting for you!

 What I liked about the program:

 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Mikki Johns
Email: mikkijohns@sjrstate.edu
Website: <https://sjrstate.edu/>

Since 1958, SJR State has built a solid reputation as a full-service college dedicated to meeting the educational and workforce training needs of its Northeast Florida district. With campuses in Orange Park, Palatka and St. Augustine, SJR State is truly the community's college, enriching a diverse population of students ranging in age from 16 to 60 and beyond.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Jennifer Argentina
Email: Jennifer.Argentina@stjohns.k12.fl.us
Website: <https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/ese/programs/transition/>

If you are looking for a career in the field of hospitality, then the Life Work transition program could be the setting for you! The Life Work Transition Program is an outcome-driven postsecondary option for 18-22-year-old students with disabilities in The St. Johns County School District. We focus on allowing students with disabilities to explore employment through nonpaid work experiences in our community while combining classroom learning.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Tera Upshaw
Email: tera.upshaw@fctc.edu
Website: <https://fctc.edu/>

First Coast Technical College’s mission is to provide career, technical and adult education to meet the changing needs of students, businesses and the regional workforce. Dual enrollment classes are offered through the Life Work program based upon certain requirements.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: VR
Email: VREmploymentPrograms@vr.fldoe.org
Website: <https://rehabworks.org/>

VR is a federal-state program that helps people who have disabilities get or keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers. The division offers access to services to attain desired job skills. Services help VR customers understand the best career options based on interests and skills


👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Leigh Ann Hale
Email: hale37@usf.edu
Website: <http://project10.info/Index.php>

Transition Education Network, "Project 10," is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Project 10 serves as the primary conduit between the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), specifically the Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services (BEES), and relevant school district personnel in addressing law and policy, effective practices, and research-based interventions in the area of transition services for youth with disabilities.

 What I liked about the program:


 What I did not like about the program:



The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities

Contact: Julie Barrow
Email: Jbbarrow@volusia.k12.fl.us
Website: <https://sednetfl.info/>

The Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities (SEDNET) creates and facilitates a network of key stakeholders committed to assisting in the provision of a quality system of care for students with or at-risk of emotional and/or behavioral challenges.

 What I liked about the program:

 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Jana Arnette
Email: janaarnette@sofl.org
Website: <https://www.specialolympics.org/>

Special Olympics is a global movement that unleashes the human spirit every day around the world through the transformative power and joy of sport. Through programming in sports, health, education and community building, Special Olympics is tackling the inactivity, stigma, isolation, and injustice that people with intellectual disabilities (ID) face. Our work goes far beyond sports events, driving social change that enables full social participation for people with ID.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Mark Tillman
Email: Spectrumthriftstore@gmail.com
Website: <https://spectrumthriftjax.org/>

**Our mission is to give employment opportunities to individuals with autism and developmental delays.
Because everyone deserves to thrive.**

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Ethel Still-Richardson
Email: erichdson@arcjacksonville.org
Website: <https://arcjacksonville.org/>

Our Mission

The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life.

Our Vision

Individuals of all abilities enrich their communities and have quality options on how they live, learn, work, and play.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



THE MORRIS CENTER
Unlocking Learning Potential

Contact: Alyssa Sommer
Email: tncpvb@morriscenters.com
Website: <http://themorriscenter.com/>

The Morris Center is an all-inclusive neurodevelopmental treatment and assessment center. We help improve skills of children and adults who have difficulty with school or job success, e.g. poor reading, spelling, comprehension, writing, speech, math, sensory processing attention, behavior or social skills. Uniquely, The Morris Center uses a transdisciplinary team of caring professionals, individually tailored assessment and treatment, and a scientifically proven treatment program. This program makes long-term improvements of weak skills that may cause academic or job difficulties.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Thaila Schugg
Email: tschug@phhp.ufl.edu
Website: <https://yell.ot.phhp.ufl.edu/>

Under the direction of Dr. Jessica Kramer, PhD, OTR/L, the YELL Lab develops and evaluates tools and interventions that empower youth and young adults with developmental disabilities. The YELL Lab partners with and employs youth and young adults with disabilities in development and evaluation to ensure our ideas meet the needs of people with disabilities.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Jenny Harvey
Email: Jenny.Harvey@unitedway-sjc.org
Website: <https://unitedway-sjc.org/>

MISSION & VISION

**To positively impact lives in Putnam and St. Johns Counties.
To inspire and lead a community in providing transformative health, education and financial stability for all generations by collaborating with donors, partners and volunteers.**

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:



Contact: Mr. Ronald Roberts
Email: Roberts.Ronald@jobcorps.org
Website: <https://www.dol.gov/>

Job Corps is the largest nationwide residential career training program in the country and has been operating for more than 50 years. The program helps eligible young people ages 16 through 24 complete their high school education, trains them for meaningful careers, and assists them with obtaining employment.

Please answer the following questions below.

👍 What I liked about the program:

👎 What I did not like about the program:

My Top Three Favorite Programs are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

I need to complete my application(s) to:

1. _____ on (Date) _____
2. _____ on (Date) _____
3. _____ on (Date) _____