

Youth One Year Out (YOYO)



What is the YOYO?

The YOYO is a voluntary phone interview that students with disabilities take part in one year after exiting high school. During the interview, former students can describe their experiences since leaving high school and learn about available resources. When necessary, information may be gathered from a parent, guardian, or caregiver on behalf of the student. The YOYO interview is voluntary and confidential.

When is the YOYO?

The YOYO takes place every year between April 1 and August 31. It's important that the school obtains updated contact information before the student's final year. Contact KYPSO for best practices for contacting former students. Schools should also notify former students in preparation for the YOYO interview.

Who conducts the YOYO?

The district Director of Special Education will designate staff to conduct the YOYO interviews. All YOYO interviewers must attend a training provided by KYPSO.

Why is the YOYO important?

The YOYO is a federal and state requirement. Information gathered from the interview can be used to help schools know how well their programs are working. It helps identify factors leading to a successful transition from high school to adulthood.

About KYPSO:

The Kentucky Post School Outcomes Center (KYPSO) aims to increase the capacity of Local Education Agencies (LEAs), teachers, parents, and adult service providers to provide exemplary transition planning and increase student post-school success. KYPSO works closely with Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Centers (SERTACs) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) to provide data and training to improve transition outcomes for youth with disabilities. KYPSO develops and oversees the Youth One Year Out former student interview (YOYO), which collects valuable post-school outcome data. This data is often used for research by both KYPSO and partners.

Findings from the 2024 YOYO:

Over half of former students (**61.5%**) participated in the 2024 YOYO interview. These students exited high school during the 2022-2023 school year.

One year after exiting high school, former students were:

- Competitively employed– **45%**
- Other employment (E.g., self-employed)– **16.2%**
- Enrolled in higher education– **19.2%**
- Enrolled in other postsecondary education/training programs– **6.9%**

Only **37%** of former students pursuing postsecondary education contacted their Disability Services Coordinator (DSC).

District/SERTAC spotlight:

- 49 districts had completion rates of 90% or above.
- Congratulations to the Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (KVEC) for having the highest SERTAC completion rate!

What did former students (and their parents) say in 2024?



“He is working at the fire department and loving it.”

“JROTC taught me everything I need to know about how to get a job and work in the real world.”

“Transition planning; his special education case manager did a great job of helping him understand the support he would need.”

“I have been working with job coaches and counselors to improve my social skills and employability skills. That has been going really well.”

“I am in college, and I started my own food truck business.”

“Pre-ETS teacher helped me a lot. Also, I had an English teacher who challenged my way of thinking and pushed me to work harder. He taught me to be patient and to understand the way other people think.”

“Sports and Future Farmers of America helped me gain the ability to talk to people that I’ve never met, which helped me going to a community college.”

Contact KYP SO:

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