

WESTPORT CONNECTIONS

Community Based Transition Services

Commission on People With
Disabilities

June 14, 2022



Westport Public Schools Responsibility under IDEA

- Students may be eligible for transition only services if all transition goals and objectives have not been met during their previous years in high school.
- Transition-only services are not needed for graduation but may include academic, vocational, and independent living activities that will help students meet their post-school goals.
- Transition-only services should be based in the local community to the greatest extent possible in order to prepare students for life after high school.

What is Westport Connections?

- Westport Connections is a community-based transition program for students ages 18-22 who have completed their four years of high school and met academic graduation requirements.
- The program focuses on independent living skills, vocational training, post secondary and community based instruction
- Based in Downtown Westport and at Fairfield University



Why is Westport Connections important?

For students:

- Student agency, social and vocational networking
- Hands on, authentic learning experiences with age appropriate peers
- Comprehensive services within Westport Public Schools
- Least Restrictive Environment

For the community:

- Demonstrates and models inclusivity
- Valued and contributing members of the workforce

Our Staff

INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

- Special Education Teacher
- Trained Job Coaches (Paraprofessionals)
- Speech Pathologist

STAFF ON CONSULT

- Occupational Therapist
- Physical Therapist
- School Psychologist
- Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)



Program Locations:

Fairfield University:

- Collaboration with Fairfield University students in graduate and undergraduate classes
- Access and integration with campus facilities and age appropriate peers

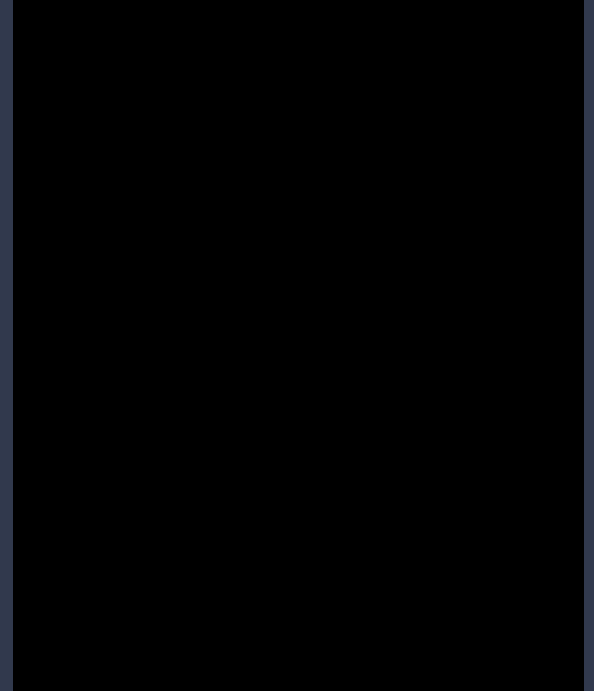
Toque Hall

- Convenient Access to the Westport Community
- Located on public bus line
- Located near Christ and Holy Trinity Church for weekly cooking groups

Westport Connections Provides...

Community Based & Independent Living Skills Instruction:

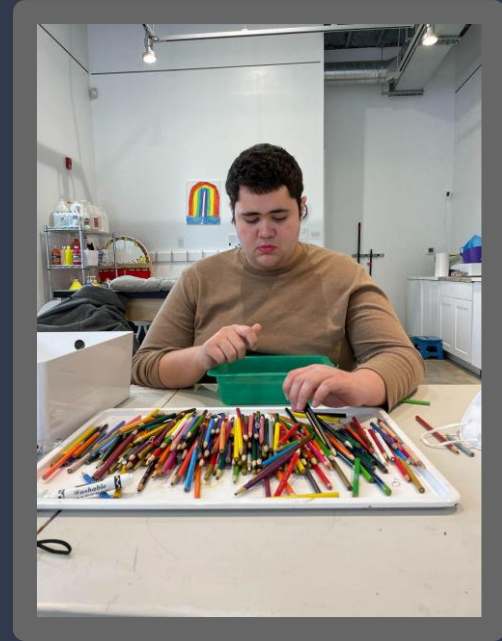
- Weekly cooking group
- Exercise and Fitness time
- Grocery/retail shopping
- Travel Training
- Art Class at Museum of Contemporary Art
- Visiting Community Resources (Library, Westport Farmers market, Wakeman Town Farm, VFW)
- Volunteer Opportunities (Westport Senior Activity Center, Toys for Tots, Filling in the Blanks)
- Weekly leisure or recreational activities and outings



Westport Connections Provides...

Vocational Instruction:

- Community based job sites with a highly trained job coach
- Monthly job club in conjunction with Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
- Jobsite Partnerships include: Double L Market, Le Rouge Chocolate, The Porch at Christie's, YMCA, Museum of Contemporary Art, Westport Book Shop, Tully Dining Hall @ Fairfield University, Dimenna-Nyselius Library @ Fairfield University



A Day in Westport Connections (Fairfield University):

	Student #1	Student #2	Student #3
8:30-9:00	Morning Meeting/Review of Schedule		
9:00-9:45	Connections Communication Group		
10:00-11:00	Fitness and Healthy Living Visit Fairfield University Recreation Complex (please dress appropriately)		
11:00-12:00	Volunteer Work Senior Activity Center	Lunch with Fairfield University Mentor	Campus Jobsite Fairfield University Library
12:00-1:00		Stag Shuttle to Downtown Fairfield Practice using Metro North Railroad	
1:00-2:30	Lunch Visit Public Library		

A Day in Westport Connections (Toquet Hall):

	Student #1	Student #2	Student #3
8:30-9:00	Morning Meeting/Review of Schedule		
9:00-9:45	Connections Communication Group		
9:45-11:15	Community Based Instruction: Banking in Downtown Westport		
11:15-12:00	Lunch	Community Based Jobsite The Porch	Lunch
12:00	Bus Pick Up		Bus Pick UP
12:15-1:45	Community Based Jobsite MoCA		Grocery Shopping Stop and Shop
1:45	Drop Groceries at CHTC		Drop Groceries at CHTC
2:00-2:30	Reflection & Dismissal		Pick up at the Porch

What's next?

- **Expanding Westport Connections**
 - **Community Partnerships/Vocational Opportunities**
 - **Relationship/Access with Fairfield University**
 - **Auditing classes at college level**
 - **Tuition Based Enrollment**
 - **Continued partnerships with surrounding school districts**
 - **Stipends for jobsites**
- **Continuum of Transition Services/Skills, grades 6-12+**