

Hot Topics Introduction

HOT TOPICS IN 2022-23

The **Hot Topics** section takes a deeper look into some of the significant topics affecting secondary transition in Oregon. They reflect the rising priorities within the Oregon Department of Education and provide the most current and relevant information available on best practices. They keep you current on important information for transition students with disabilities.

Find the Hot Topics section:

<https://transitionoregon.org/Transition Resource Handbook> (tab)

Let's Celebrate!!!!!!

After years of hard work by educators across Oregon, the *Lane v. Brown* settlement agreement was finalized on July 21, 2022.

In 2012, Disability Rights Oregon, United Cerebral Palsy of Oregon and S.W. Washington, and multiple named plaintiffs sued the state of Oregon for allegedly violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by segregating workers with disabilities. The suit argued the State was violating the ADA by funding sheltered workshops and paying workers with disabilities less than minimum wage.

The parties drafted a [Settlement Agreement](#) in 2015 containing requirements that the state needed to fulfill by 2022. The plaintiffs did not receive any money as part of the settlement, but the agreement did change the state's approach to people with disabilities.

The new requirements affected two groups of people: those working in sheltered workshops at the time; and people with intellectual and developmental disabilities aged 14 to 24, who are transitioning to work or higher education.

As part of the agreement, the State needed to stop funding all sheltered workshops and provide career planning to over 1,000 workers who wanted to find other employment. Furthermore, jobs offered to these workers needed to integrate employees with and without disabilities.

At the time the lawsuit was filed, transition-age people with disabilities were often trained to work in a sheltered workshop. After the settlement, training for sheltered workshops ended. Instead, under the agreement, Oregon's Department of Developmental Disabilities Services and the Oregon Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Services were required to provide specialized job training and career planning services to people with disabilities who wanted to work.

Nicole Jorwic, the independent reviewer for the case, found that by the end of the settlement period, the state complied with the requirements. She said, "Overall my findings were that the State not only hit their numbers but put the systems in place to just continue to sustain the advances that they've made in expanding access to these services."

While we can celebrate the great work that has happened throughout the state to bring this monumental case to a close on July 21, 2022, we realize that we still have additional work to do to improve the quality of services for students receiving transition supports in order to help them gain the skills to live, work, and play in the community of their choice.

Oregon's Hot Topics for 2022-23



- House Bill (HB) 2105 - Supported Decision Making
- Senate Bill (SB) 744 - Review of Oregon Diploma types
- Planning My Way to Work
- Transition Technical Assistance Network
- TTAN Website
- Guidance on Avoiding Mock Sheltered Workshops
- Seamless Transition
- ODE and CTE
- On Track for Diplomas
- Resiliency Framework (rev. March 2022)