

What is High School/High Tech?

Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) is designed to provide high school students with all types of disabilities, between the ages of 14-22, the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology-related careers. HS/HT encourages students to make better, more informed decisions about the future and focus on their abilities, not disabilities. HS/HT links youth to a broad range of academic resources, career development opportunities and on-the-job experiences that will enable them to meet the demands of the 21st century workforce.

HS/HT is a community-based partnership made up of students, parents and caregivers, businesses, educators and rehabilitation professionals. It has been shown to reduce the high school dropout rate of students with disabilities, increase their enrollment in college, improve their participation in employment-related activities and increase their overall self-esteem.



Local businesses host facility tours for students where they are able to learn more about careers that interest them and the skills needed to prepare for the workforce.

Program Activities

High School/High Tech (HS/HT) activities follow evidence-based guideposts that provide direction for youth transitioning into adulthood. HS/HT students who participate in these activities have shown to be more independent, productive and motivated.



Students visit NASA's Kennedy Space Center through the partnership formed with the Florida Space Grant Consortium.

The five HS/HT guideposts are: Preparatory Experiences, Work-Based Experiences, Connecting Activities, Youth Development & Leadership and Family Involvement & Support.

HS/HT program activities include:

- Corporate Site Visits
- Mentoring
- Job Shadowing
- Guest Speakers
- Summer Internships
- College & University Campus Tours
- Service Learning

Florida HS/HT is connected to a growing number of businesses and community organizations. Volunteers provide meaningful opportunities that enable students to achieve a rewarding career in their chosen fields.

HS/HT Programs Across Florida

Florida High School/High Tech (HS/HT) is a national initiative of the US Department of Labor Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP). It is funded in Florida by The Able Trust, a nonprofit foundation providing employment support for Floridians with disabilities and supported by the Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The Florida HS/HT program is growing rapidly. To see if there is a project in your area, visit www.floridahsht.org. If you have an interest in starting a local HS/HT project, contact Cat Keen toll-free at 888.838.2253 or via e-mail at Cat@abletrust.org.

For more information about Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services, contact Kirk Hall toll-free at 1.800.451.4327 or via e-mail at Kirk.Hall@vr.fldoe.org.



Brevard County HS/HT students toured the facilities at Harris Corporation to learn how the engineers and scientists use technology in their careers.

Discover Your Future

High School/High Tech (HS/HT) helps students prepare for life after high school, discover their dream jobs and form lasting friendships with caring adults and fellow students. Parents watch their children become more independent and productive. Employers benefit by tapping into a potential new source of able, enthusiastic and well-educated workers.

**"High School/High Tech made a difference in my life, and now I have a direction for the future."
- Alex, HS/HT Graduate**

High School/High Tech - It Works!

Young people with disabilities who strive to become successful in our technology-driven global economy must acquire the knowledge and skills to advance in those careers. HS/HT encourages high school students with disabilities to explore their own interests and potential in technology-related careers. As a result, 86 percent of HS/HT graduates enroll in postsecondary education or employment.

"Because of the HS/HT program, our son is now serious about his future." - HS/HT Parents, Chandler, FL

For More Information About Florida High School/High Tech

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Funded In Part By:



Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation program serves youth with disabilities transitioning from school to work and has partnered with HS/HT to meet the needs of these students.

To learn more about Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services, visit www.RehabWorks.org or call 1.800.451.4327.

FLORIDA

HIGH SCHOOL-HIGH TECH



DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

A transition program providing high school students with disabilities the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology-related careers.

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