

Practical Assessment Exploration System (PAES)

Developed by Dr. Judy Swisher, a transition teacher in Kansas, over thirty years ago. The development of the PAES lab was her Doctrinal Thesis with the University of Kansas.

A comprehensive data driven curriculum for students with special needs that provides:

- Training in Basic Career/Vocational and Life Skills
- Exploration through hands-on experiences help to determine a students career/vocational strengths and potential strengths.
- PAES operates in a simulated work environment that allows staff to assess and address behaviors that may cause barriers in the working environment. Students become employees; teachers/assistants are supervisors
- Assessment of a students ability to work, interests in specific types of work, and the type of support an individual would need in the work place. There are 264 total jobs in five areas:
 - Business/Marketing
 - Consumer Service
 - Construction/Industrial
 - Processing/Production
 - Computer/Technology

Our program allows students to participate in the PAES lab for one semester, two hours a day. From an educational standpoint once a student has completed the program staff knows:

- What skills students can perform
- If students are competitive with real world employees
- What types of assistance and modifications they would need if they were to work
- What work behaviors students have and which they need to develop

In addition:

- PAES assessment results provide staff with the data to develop and write post-high goals and objectives for the transition plan. Everything that a student does on a job is collected by staff, entered into a computer, and the resulting twelve page comprehensive data driven report can be used as an integral part of the IEP transition plan and for the Regional Center and Dept of Rehab in helping to place students in a work program.

Student outcomes.

- They know what they are doing
- They know what their strengths are and what they would like to do career wise
- They know what behaviors are required on the job
- They develop tremendous confidence, self-advocacy and problem solving skills