



District Office

4115 Ambassador Boulevard NW | St. Francis MN 55070

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Ms. Beth Richmond and Ms. Collette Baumgardner,

Thank you for your questions and interest in our T-15 program that St. Francis Area Schools is interested in moving into the building formerly known as “Oaklands”.

The Transition 15 program is a post high school special education transition program available to students of St. Francis Area Schools as determined by their Individual Education Plan (IEP) teams. Students have not received a diploma or other certificate of completion signifying termination of a secondary education. The program focuses on the areas of transition which include post-secondary education, employment, and independent living (including rec & leisure, community participation, home & daily living). The program connects special education, vocational education, and community agencies to assist students with disabilities in transition to adult life.

Transition 15's mission is to provide our young people with a variety of experiences and learning opportunities to move them toward independence. We provide a variety of work experience opportunities, including on-site skills practice through Saints Roast 15 Coffee Cart (currently serving staff of St. Francis Learning Center and our District Office Employees since 2008). We collect and crush pop cans, perform non-confidential shredding, and a variety of small jobs to assist other programs. Some of our off-site work experiences include: Volunteering at the North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf (N.A.C.E) and learning a variety of work skills. (See our young people in the NACE [video](#)). Our students also volunteer at The Farmstead, a part of Presbyterian Homes doing some light cleaning, and practicing their work skills: working in a team, following directions, communicating with others, self-advocacy, and so much more.

Transition 15 is also partnering with the district's Assistive Technology department and building a work experience with the assistive technology coordinator as she builds the department which will include inventory, pulling items needed, and delivering items for other students to their sites and a potential for more.

Young people at T15 also have the opportunity to experience a variety of community-based learning through outings to a variety of community sites to practice a variety of skills: comparison shopping, asking for help to find items, shopping on a budget, restaurant skills, using cash, using debit cards, social skills, grocery shopping, and so much more.

The relocation of T15 to the “Oaklands” property would provide students the opportunity to further develop the skills listed above. At present, the space would be used for educational purposes only with the potential of allowing for pedestrian traffic and retail sales in the future. Additionally, it would be very plausible for students in the T15 program to potentially assist with basic levels of cleaning for businesses along Bridge Street and adjacent areas.

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