

If your district is interested in creating a program similar to Springfield Public Schools' **B.A.S.E. Program**—a community-based vocational and academic transition program for 16+ students with IEPs—here is a clear roadmap:

What the Springfield B.A.S.E. Program Is

- The B.A.S.E. Program is a **community-based vocational and academic program** that serves students aged 16 or older who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) within Springfield Public Schools. [Missouri DESE +8](#) [SPS](#)
- It's a long-standing program—running over 25 years—delivered at multiple partner sites including Mercy, CoxHealth hospitals, Missouri State University, and Ozarks Technical Community College. Students attend classes, job shadow mid-day, and develop key soft skills. [SPS](#)

Key Steps to Stand Up a Similar Program

1. Conduct Needs Assessment & Set Goals

- Survey your district's population: how many students age 16+ with IEPs will benefit from transitional support?
- Define outcomes: employment readiness, academic engagement, soft skills development, independent living preparation.

2. Engage Stakeholders Early

- Form a planning team: special ed directors, guidance counselors, district leadership, parents, post-secondary transition specialists.
- Reach out to local businesses, higher-ed institutions, hospitals or nonprofit partners for site hosting, placements, and mentorship.

3. Establish Eligibility & IEP Framework

- Align eligibility criteria: e.g. age 16+, active IEP, willingness to pursue job or education goals. [Missouri DESE +7](#)
- Ensure IEPs include transition plans (process steps, job goals, supports) to integrate into B.A.S.E. programming.

4. Design Curriculum & Activities

- Provide **academic and vocational coursework**, soft skills workshops (e.g., punctuality, teamwork), and structured **job shadowing or internships**, as Springfield does. [SPS](#) [Missouri DESE](#)
- Replicate their model-level **Transition Seminar**: every-other-year event featuring life after high school, budgeting, employment expectations, supports. [SPS +3](#)

5. Develop Partnerships & Secure Facilities

- Springfield offers sites at hospitals and campuses (e.g., Mercy, CoxHealth, MSU, OTC). [SPS +3](#)
- Your district can negotiate shared spaces with local partners or use existing district facilities that mirror real-world environments.

6. Staffing & Training

- Hire or designate special education instructors with experience in transition education.
- Train them on supported employment strategies, community collaboration, disability services.

7. Funding & Budget Planning

- Explore federal IDEA Part B funds, state grants for transition services, local partnerships/sponsorships.
- Include staffing, transportation, insurance, materials, partner coordination, and seminar expenses.

8. Pilot & Roll-Out

- Launch a small-scale pilot involving one or two sites or partners.
- Enroll a manageable cohort (e.g., 10–20 students) in the first year to test logistics and outcomes.
- Collect feedback from students, parents, partners, and staff to refine the program.

9. Track Outcomes & Continuous Improvement

- Monitor metrics like attendance, internship completion, employment or post-secondary placement, IEP goal attainment, student/social-emotional development.
- Host advisory meetings with partners and leadership to evaluate results and iterate.

10. Scale Before Full Launch

- Expand geographically and by partner host sites as you refine the model.
- Promote the program among high schools, families, guidance counselors, and IEP teams.

Why These Steps Work

- Springfield's model is robust: seven sites, structured academic-vocational integration, soft-skill seminars, and community engagement. [SPS +1](#)
 - They position transition readiness—not just academics—as central to success.
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Sample Implementation Timeline

Phase	Timeline	Milestones
Planning & partnerships	3–6 months	Needs analysis, partner agreements, staffing plan
Curriculum & seminar design	2–3 months	Course outlines, IEP integration, semester planning
Pilot launch	Year 1	Initial cohort, first Transition Seminar, data collection
Evaluation & refinement	Ongoing	Student outcomes, stakeholder feedback
Expansion & full rollout	Year 2+	More sites, formalized funding, broader eligibility

By following this step-by-step blueprint, your district can create a transition program modeled on Springfield's B.A.S.E., supporting students toward independence and post-school success. Let me know if you'd like help developing curriculum modules, securing partner agreements, or designing transition seminar content!