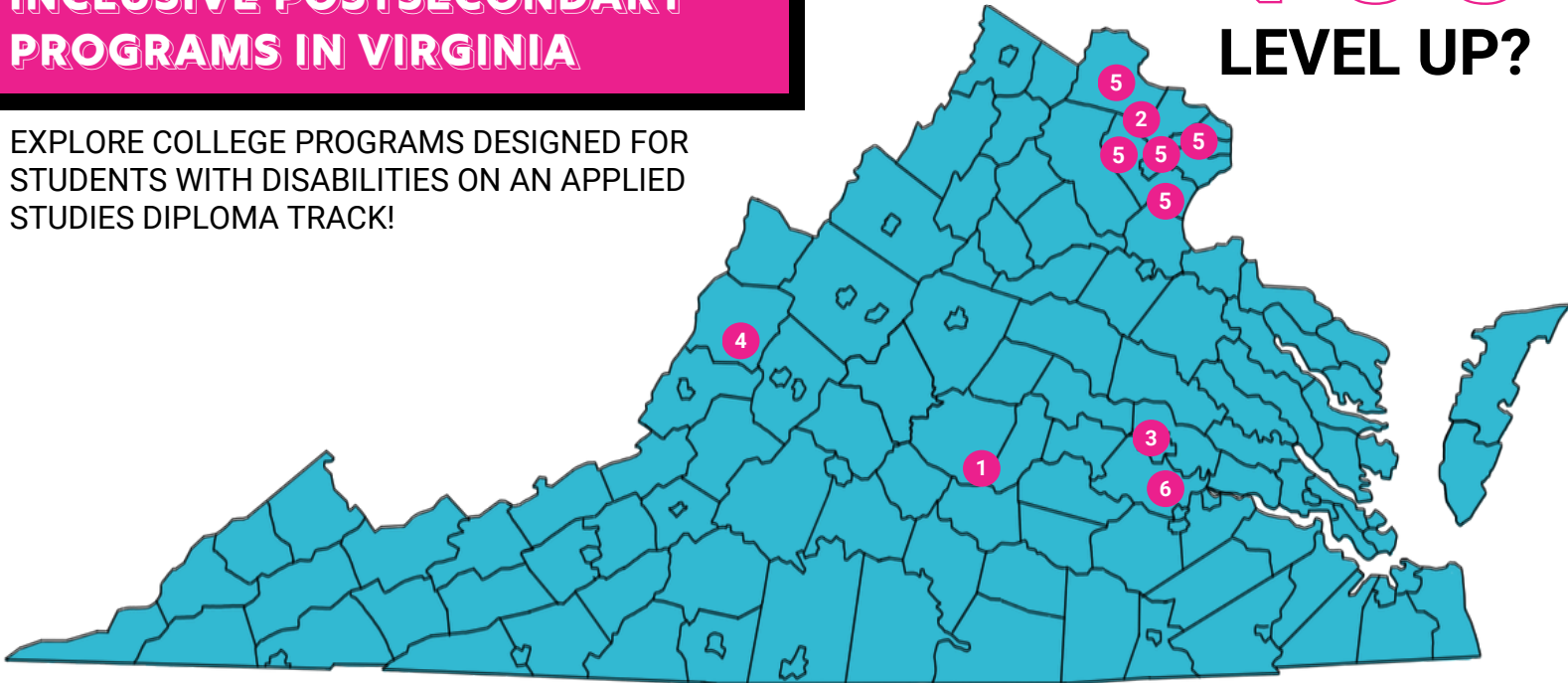


## INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY PROGRAMS IN VIRGINIA

EXPLORE COLLEGE PROGRAMS DESIGNED FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ON AN APPLIED STUDIES DIPLOMA TRACK!



### 1 Longwood LIFE Program at Longwood University

Farmville, VA | [www.longwood.edu/cehhs/about/longwood-life/](http://www.longwood.edu/cehhs/about/longwood-life/)

Longwood LIFE is a two-year, non-degree certificate program for individuals with intellectual disabilities, aged 18-25. Students with an applied studies diploma attend two days a week with supervision, gaining skills for independent living in a college setting. The program includes courses in fine arts, fitness, healthy relationships, reading, consumer math, social skills, vocational and daily living skills, and therapeutic recreation. Students also gain job experience with job coaches who are undergraduate special education students.

### 2 The Mason LIFE Program at George Mason University

Fairfax, VA | [www.masonlife.gmu.edu/](http://www.masonlife.gmu.edu/)

The Mason LIFE Program is a post-secondary program for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, offering a supportive university experience. Its mission is to provide both a supportive academic environment for students and apprenticeship opportunities for George Mason University students.

### 3 VCU ACE-IT in College at Virginia Commonwealth University

Richmond, VA | [www.aceitincollege.vcu.edu/](http://www.aceitincollege.vcu.edu/)

ACE-IT in College is an inclusive program that provides a pathway to higher education for students with intellectual disabilities who don't meet traditional college entrance criteria. Students take career-focused courses, hold paid campus jobs, and complete internships. 90% of ACE-IT graduates are employed after graduation.

### 4 ILEAP at Mountain Gateway Community College

Clifton Forge, VA | [www.thinkcollege.net/programs/ileap-inclusive-learning-enabled-action-program](http://www.thinkcollege.net/programs/ileap-inclusive-learning-enabled-action-program)

ILEAP serves selected school divisions in the area by reinforcing personal effectiveness skills while gaining occupational experience. It is a two-year intensive program (six semesters, including two summer terms) that includes opportunities to earn 27 credit hours of coursework in classes with general population students and will assist program students in successfully transitioning into gainful employment.

### 5 College Steps at Northern Virginia Community College

Alexandria, VA; Annandale, VA; Loudoun, VA; Manassas, VA; Woodbridge, VA | [www.collegesteps.org](http://www.collegesteps.org)

College Steps is a nonprofit that offers customized college support for students with learning and social challenges, including learning disabilities, autism, and executive functioning deficits. They help students succeed in post-secondary education, work and life at the Alexandria, Annandale and Loudoun campuses of Northern Virginia Community College.

### 6 College Steps at Brightpoint Community College

Chester, VA | [www.collegesteps.org](http://www.collegesteps.org)

College Steps (information above) is also available to Chesterfield County Public School students at Brightpoint Community College.

# FUNDING FOR INCLUSIVE POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Financial aid options are available for students with disabilities who want to continue their education!

## Federal Financial Aid

Some inclusive postsecondary education programs are designated as Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) programs, which means they qualify for federal financial aid. Students in these programs can apply for financial aid even if they do not have a high school diploma or GED. To receive aid:

- The program must be at a college that participates in federal financial aid programs (check with the college).
- You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year.
- Students must make progress in their program to continue receiving aid.

## State Funding

- If your student is a client of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), they may qualify for financial assistance to enroll in Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center ([www.wwrc.virginia.gov](http://www.wwrc.virginia.gov)), job training and other support. Contact a DARS counselor early to explore available services and funding.

## Scholarships & Savings

- Some organizations offer scholarships specifically for students with disabilities. A Google search will help you find the latest.
- If your family has a Commonwealth Savers ABLEnow account ([www.ablenow.com](http://www.ablenow.com)), funds can be used to pay for tuition, training programs and other education-related expenses.

For additional information on funding for postsecondary education, visit [www.levelupvirginia.org/finance](http://www.levelupvirginia.org/finance).

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The Level Up Virginia website is home to many resources to assist students with disabilities in their postsecondary journey! Visit our website to learn more!



Visit our website

[www.levelupvirginia.org/  
prepare/students-with-  
disabilities](http://www.levelupvirginia.org/prepare/students-with-disabilities)

