

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that works with people who have physical or mental disabilities to prepare for, gain or retain employment. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers.

WHAT IS VR SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITION?

VR School to Work Transition involves a number of activities that help students with disabilities prepare and plan for employment success after high school.

WHAT TYPE OF ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM VR?

- Medical and Psychological Assessment
- Vocational Evaluation and Planning
- Career Counseling and Guidance
- Work Experience While in High School
- Training and Education After High School
- Job-Site Assessment and Accommodations
- Job Placement
- Job Coaching
- On-the-Job Training
- Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment

ARE ALL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ELIGIBLE FOR VR SERVICES?

Any student with a disability may be eligible for VR services, including those who are not eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE). Contact the local VR office to apply. To locate the VR office nearest to you, go to www.rehabworks.org and click on the VR Office Directory. There is a VR counselor assigned to every high school in Florida.

2002 Old Saint Augustine Road, Bldg. A
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-4862
(850) 245-3399 (Voice and TTY)
(800) 451-4327 (Voice and TTY)
www.Rehabworks.org
www.FLJobConnections.com



An equal opportunity employer/program. It is against the law for the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) of the Florida Department of Education, as a recipient of Federal financial assistance, to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief.

The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services, and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. All voice telephone numbers on this document may be reached by persons using TTY/TDD equipment or via the Florida Relay Service at 711.

The Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation is a proud partner in Florida's Next Generation Strategic Plan for education.

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A GUIDE FOR SCHOOL TO WORK TRANSITION

WHO MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR VR SERVICES?

You may be eligible for VR services if you have a goal to become employed and meet the following criteria:

- Your physical or mental disability interferes with your ability to become employed.
- VR's help is necessary for you to prepare for, gain or retain employment.

If you receive Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for your disability, you are presumed eligible for VR services if you intend to become employed.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION?

VR will look at the income of eligible individuals to determine if they will be required to share in the cost of vocational rehabilitation services. Some individuals or services may be exempt, and a person will not be required to pay toward the cost of these services.

WHAT IS ORDER OF SELECTION?

Under order of selection, all eligible individuals are placed on a prioritized waiting list based on the significance of their disability. Federal law requires that individuals with the most significant disabilities be served first.

WHAT ARE THE SCHOOL'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

Your school is responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education. This includes specialized instruction and assistive technology to students with disabilities until they exit high school by earning a standard diploma, special diploma, or reach their 22nd birthday.

WHEN DOES VR GET INVOLVED?

VR representatives are available to participate in the transition Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings when you turn 16, if you may benefit from VR services to reach your adult employment goal. The purpose of this early communication is to ensure that you and your family are aware of VR eligibility requirements and possible services. Generally, students are encouraged to apply two years before leaving high school so VR can determine eligibility and assist in developing an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). You may apply when you turn 16 if you need assistance with work experience while you are still in high school.

HOW DOES A STUDENT GET REFERRED TO VR?

Referrals can be made by anyone, including teachers, guidance counselors, school personnel, transition specialists, parents or the student. Please use the information on the back of this brochure to contact us.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

You meet with a VR counselor to start the application process and determine eligibility. Once eligibility is established, you will be placed in the appropriate Order of Selection category. When your case is ready to be processed from the waiting list, your counselor will work with you to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). Your IPE addresses the services you need for a successful transition to the agreed upon employment outcome.

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY INVOLVEMENT?

The success of transition planning depends on the involvement of your parents or guardians in helping you achieve your goals. Although the primary relationship is between you and the VR counselor, family support continues to play an important role in your success beyond high school.

WHAT IF I AM RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

It is possible for you to work and continue to receive Social Security benefits and Medicaid. The conditions are specific to each individual and should be discussed with a Social Security Administration representative.