

## WHAT IS THE VR TRANSITION YOUTH PROGRAM?

VR helps students with disabilities train for a job, continue their education, or find a job after high school. Under this program, every youth will have the opportunity to participate in sponsored career counseling, work readiness training, and fully integrated work experiences in the community. These services are delivered while youth are still in high school and establish the foundation for a seamless transition to individualized training, education, and employment.

## SHOULD MY FAMILY BE INVOLVED?

Although the primary relationship is between you and your VR counselor, family support is important. Involving your parents or guardians in transition planning can help you achieve your goals.

## TYPES OF VR ASSISTANCE

### While in high school:

- Medical and Psychological Assessment
- Vocational Evaluation and Planning
- Career Counseling and Guidance
- Work Readiness Training
- Work Experiences

### After exiting high school:

- Workplace Accommodations
- Job Placement
- Job Coaching
- On-the-Job Training
- Supported Employment
- Assistive Technology and Devices
- Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

(850) 245-3399

(800) 451-4327

TTY users dial 711 to connect with the telecommunications relay service (TRS). Video phone users can call through the video relay service (VRS).

[www.RehabWorks.org](http://www.RehabWorks.org)



**Vocational Rehabilitation**



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**  
fldoe.org



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.

# A GUIDE FOR TRANSITION YOUTH



**VR Vocational Rehabilitation**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## WHAT IS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OR VR?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a federal-state program that helps people who have physical or mental disabilities get or keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful careers. Passage of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act further supports VR efforts to prepare youth for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce.

## 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 for students with disabilities until they exit high school, earn a diploma, or reach their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday.

## 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 A PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES REFERRAL?

Schools may refer you to VR just for pre-employment services offered through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, including career exploration, work readiness training, and work experience. This lets you access important services without having to apply to VR. You may still submit a VR application, if additional services or supports are needed to pursue your career.

## WHEN DOES VR GET INVOLVED?

VR representatives are available to participate in the transition Individual Educational Plan (IEP) meetings when you turn 15, if you need VR services while in high school. The purpose of this early communication is to ensure that you and your family are aware of VR eligibility requirements and possible services. Early referral and application are necessary to allow VR sufficient time to determine eligibility and assist in developing an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

## WHAT IS ORDER OF SELECTION?

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

## HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I'M 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 your local VR office to apply. To locate the VR office nearest you, go to [www.RehabWorks.org](http://www.RehabWorks.org) and click on the VR Office Directory. There is a VR counselor assigned to every high school in Florida.

## WHO REFERS ME TO VR?

Referrals can be made by anyone, including teachers, guidance counselors, school personnel, transition specialists, parents, or yourself.

## WHAT IS FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION?

VR will look at the income of eligible students to determine if they will be required to share the cost of VR services. Some students may not be required to pay toward the cost of these services. Some services are provided free of charge.