

WISCONSIN



DWD

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

TRANSITION SERVICES

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What is DVR?

- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a state agency within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) that develops occupational talent of individuals with disabilities
- Funding is **78.7** percent federal, **21.3** percent state match
- **Mission:** To assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining, maintaining, or improving employment



Referral and Application Process

- High school students with a disability should apply to DVR at least two years before exiting high school
- For those under 18 or those over 18 who are not their own guardian, the individual's legal guardian must sign all documents
- Referral to apply can be done online, by mail, or in person



Who is eligible for DVR?

- To be eligible for DVR services you must have a documented medical or psychological disability that presents a barrier to employment and requires DVR services
- DVR staff will work with the applicant to:
 - Gather needed written documentation and information releases
 - Schedule a meeting to discuss the applicant's disability and needs
 - Use existing information to the greatest extent possible (IEP, functional screen, previous medical records, etc.)
 - Refer the applicant for additional assessment if needed



Students Potentially Eligible for DVR

- Consent must be given by parents if the student is under 18 or has a guardian
- Disability must be verified
 - Referral form signed by parent and/or qualified school staff
 - Disability documentation (IEP or medical records)
- Only receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
 - If these services are needed, students must apply for DVR services
- DVR funded Pre-ETS are to be considered light touch and not individualized



What is Order of Selection (OOS)?

- OOS evaluates how a person's disability affects seven different areas that relate to work:
 - Mobility
 - Communication
 - Self-care
 - Self-direction
 - Interpersonal skills/acceptance
 - Work tolerance
 - Work skills
- As required by federal law, DVR serves those with the most serious limitations due to disability first



Key Practices for Transition

- Invite DVR to IEPs or allow DVR to provide technical assistance for students with disabilities who are not DVR consumers but are considering applying for services in the future.
- Offer employment planning consultation through DVR, which can be provided for any student with a disability.
- DVR vocational counselors schedule and attend regular meetings with the high school.



Helpful Tools for Transition

- Coordinated transition services (Pre-ETS) with schools and other partner agencies
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Counseling on comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational program enrollment opportunities
 - Work-based readiness training to develop social and independent living skills
 - Instruction on self-advocacy



What is an IPE?

- An IPE is an Individualized Plan for Employment – not to be confused with an IEP (Individualized Education Program)!
- DVR helps consumers develop a plan to find a job, keep a job, or get a better job.



End Goal: Competitive Integrated Employment

- Is full or part-time earning minimum wage (i.e., \$7.25 per hour) or higher;
- Offers wages and benefits similar to those earned by individuals without disabilities performing the same work
- Provides equal access to advancement opportunities
- Typically found in the community
- Conducting business where an employee with a disability interacts with both people with and without disabilities



Successful Closure

- Once an individual has maintained employment for a minimum of 90 days, DVR will collect wage documentation and close file successfully.
- For consumers in supported or customized employment this 90-day timeframe begins following the transition to Long Term Support (Family Care/IRIS).
- Consumers can reapply for services at any time.



DVR START Team

- START = Statewide Transition Action and Resource Team

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/job-seekers/transition/pdf/start-list.pdf>

- Transition Liaison List:

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/job-seekers/transition/pdf/school-liaisons.pdf>



Questions?



Contact Us



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