

WISCONSIN



DWD

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# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

## TRANSITION SERVICES

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Transition Talks | 10/18/2022

# Learning Targets

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- Understand DVR's Referral and Application process
- Learn about DVR's Eligibility Criteria
- Discuss DVR's transition services
- Share tools and best practices for successful student transition
- Address your questions about DVR transition service



# What is DVR?

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- 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

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- High school students with a disability should apply to DVR at least two years before completing 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?

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- 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



# What is Order of Selection (OOS)?

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- 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



# What is an IPE?

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- 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.



# Key Practices for Transition

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- 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.
- Schedule and attend regular meetings with the high school.





# Key Practices for Transition (cont.)

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- Schedule a meeting with DVR, teachers, and other school staff at the start of the school year to provide updates about DVR and share all necessary contact information.
- Attend parent/teacher conferences, transition fairs, open houses, and similar events to provide DVR information.



# Helpful Tools for Transition

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- Coordinated transition services 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



# Comparable Benefits

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- Must look at other sources in the community before using DVR funds for services
- Examples:
  - Financial aid
  - Transit services
  - Libraries/Computer labs
- Cost sharing between agencies



# End Goal: Integrated Employment

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“Most integrated setting” is now defined as:

*“...a setting that enables an individual to interact with persons without developmental disabilities to the fullest extent possible.”*

(§46.279(1)(bm) Wisconsin Statutes; emphasis added.)



# Successful Closure

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- Once an individual has maintained employment for a minimum of 90 days, DVR will close file successfully.
- For consumers in supported or customized employment this 90-day timeframe begins following the transition to Long Term Support.
- Closures may allow others to come off waitlists.
- Consumers can reapply for services at any time.



# DVR START Team

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- START = Statewide Transition Action and Resource Team

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

- Transition Liaison List:

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



# Questions?



# Contact Us



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