

WISCONSIN



DWD

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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
TRANSITION SERVICES

# 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 competitive integrated employment



# Referral and Application Process

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- 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?

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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 and pay for them.



# Students Potentially Eligible for DVR

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- 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 necessarily individualized



# 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



# 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.
- DVR vocational counselors schedule and attend regular meetings with the high school.



# Pre-ETS Coordination with School

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- 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

DVR may also provide non-Pre-ETS to students as necessary to reach their employment goal if student is a full DVR consumer





# 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.
- Students can set a broad employment goal.



# End Goal: Competitive Integrated Employment

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- 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

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- 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.



# TRANSITION RESOURCES

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- START = Statewide Transition Action and Resource Team

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

- DVR Transition Services

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/job-seekers/transition/transition-students.htm>

- DVR School Liaison List:

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

- Transition Action Guide (TAG)

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/policy-guidance/toolkits-guides-manuals/transition-action-guide/>



Questions?



# Contact Us



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