WISCONSIN

DWD

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

TRANSITION SERVICES

Jesse DeAngelis, MS, LPC, CRC
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Learning Targets

- 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?

- 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 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?

- To be eligible for DVR services, a student 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)?

- 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 does transition look like?

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

Key Practices for Transition (cont.)

- 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

- 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

DVR Employment Planning and Consultation Services for Transition Services

What are they?

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.

DVR is about planning…

"If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up someplace else."

-Yogi Berra

Comparable Benefits

- 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

"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

- 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

- 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

Jesse DeAngelis, MS, LPC, CRC
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
(920) 404-6830
Jesse.DeAngelis@dwd.wisconsin.gov