

# Transition from School to Work

Deer Valley Unified School District VR-TSW Services and Supports

July 2017

## What is Transition?

For all youth, high school begins the process of planning and preparing for adult life. For students with disabilities, this process is defined as **Transition Services** and becomes a mandatory component of the IEP by the age of 16., or sooner if needed. This includes assessment of personal strengths and preferences, enrolling in high school classes that support vocational preparation, and helping students become active participants in their IEP meetings.

## What is the DVUSD VR-TSW Program?

The **DVUSD Vocational Rehabilitation—Transition School to Work Program** (DVUSD VR-TSW Program) is a joint effort between the AZ Department of Economic Security—Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the Deer Valley Unified School District (DVUSD). While DVUSD offers a variety of educational and extracurricular opportunities to support transition, a unique partnership with RSA allows us to provide enhanced services for students who apply for and meet the eligibility criteria for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services. Enhanced services can include supplemental instruction and community experiences designed to facilitate successful transition to employment. Students may enroll in an elective course designed to provide additional transition skills training (Career Inquiry/Career Development) or receive ancillary services threaded throughout the high school routine and/or embedded in other transition focused classes or programs, such as CTE courses.

## What are the steps to determining VR eligibility?

With Parent/Guardian permission and a signed “**Release of Information**” form, the Service Coordinator or TSW Teacher at your child’s high school campus can initiate the VR eligibility process by submitting a *High School VR-Referral form* to RSA with copy of your child’s special education records. Soon after, you will be contacted by a TSW Transition Teacher/Coordinator to schedule an **application and intake interview** with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.



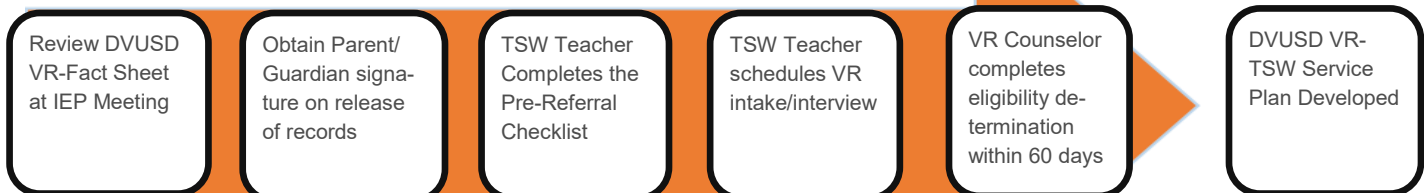
Follow the link to watch a short YouTube video from RSA

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD7ZQYJ\\_pOg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fD7ZQYJ_pOg)

### DVUSD VR-TSW LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Self Advocacy
- Career Exploration
- Job Readiness Skills
- Independent Living
- Education or Training Plan
- Work Experience

### Referral Process for DVUSD VR-TSW Program



## SERVICES AN ELIGIBLE VR CLIENT MAY RECEIVE:

The VR Counselor provides vocational counseling and guidance and works to arrange for and purchase services necessary for the eligible individual to reach their employment outcome.

### Services may include:

- ◆ Training
- ◆ Work site evaluations
- ◆ Job development
- ◆ Job placement services
- ◆ Rehabilitation and technology services and devices
- ◆ Other support services

*\*Based on the individual's available financial resources, the RSA may require an eligible member to pay for some services.*



## What happens at the VR Application & Intake Interview?

Most often the *application and intake interview* can be scheduled at the student's high school campus. However, sometimes meetings may need to be scheduled at the VR office. In preparation for the *interview*, the DVUSD TSW Teacher may contact the families to gather information supporting the need for VR services. It's important to keep the interview appointment time and to be prepared to share with the VR counselor specific concerns you have about your child's ability to acquire and retain employment. Becoming eligible for VR, and subsequently receiving DVUSD VR-TSW services, is dependent on the perception that a student will need extended support and time to develop workplace skills.

## What happens after VR Eligibility?

For youth that elect to participate in the DVUSD VR-TSW program, the IEP team, with the support of the TSW Teacher, will discuss the most appropriate course of study to support the student's post-secondary goal. Depending on the student's academic track and graduation plan, participation in a structured TSW class may or may not be required. While some students benefit from participation in the TSW classes, others may be adequately supported by monthly visits with the TSW Teacher and/or VR counselor. These services are typically called "consult services," and provide check-in support, along with opportunities to foster career inquiry and job readiness skills, including the development of a VR **Individual Plan of Employment (IPE)**. A DVUSD VR-TSW *Service Plan* will be established for all VR eligible students.

## Do VR services stop after graduation?

Prior to graduation, students will have completed an **Individual Plan of Employment (IPE)** with their VR Counselor. This is a signed plan that outlines the ongoing support students will receive from VR after graduating from DVUSD.

**\*\* It is vital that students keep in contact with their VR counselor after graduation or their case may be closed.**

