

DVRS PRESENTS: FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Successfully Rehabilitating NJ's Workforce since 1918

What is DVRS?

- Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is within the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development.
- DVRS helps individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain competitive integrated employment.
- Our staff are educated counselors and are highly trained in the field of vocational rehabilitation.

Our Mission:



The Mission of the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services is to enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve competitive employment outcomes consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities and capabilities.

Two Populations Served

Student with a Disability

- 14-21 In School Youth
- Must be enrolled in an educational setting
- Secondary education programs, non traditional or alt. secondary programs, home schooling, postsecondary programs, and all others including through the juvenile justice facility
- Student must have a documented disability, has an IEP or 504 plan

Youth with a Disability

- 14-24 Out of School Youth
- Youth does not have to be participating in an education setting
- Age range for a Youth with a Disability is typically broader than a Student with a Disability

Competitive Integrated Employment:

- Full or Part-time work
- Compensated at minimum wage or above, and not less than the customary rate paid by the employer for the same or similar work performed by others
- Must be eligible for the level of benefits and opportunities for advancement provided to other employees
- Location of work allows employee to interact with other persons without disabilities

DVRS' role in helping Students & Youth

Working with the consumer to mutually assess the best services to help the consumer obtain employment in the community.

Some examples of services include:

- Attend IEP meetings
- Network with local agencies to help develop work opportunities
- Evaluate interests and strengths of student to provide suggestions/create roadmaps to individualized career pathways
- Assistance with providing information on higher education/individualized training
- Explore Vocational training areas
- Job Search Assistance

What are the **5** Pre-Employment Transition Services ?

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Counseling on enrollment opportunities
3. Workplace readiness training
4. Instruction in self advocacy
5. Work-based learning experiences

Job Exploration Counseling

Job exploration counseling:

- Information regarding in-demand industry sectors and occupations, as well as non-traditional employment;
- Assess student's vocational interest inventory results
- Local Labor market information that applies to the student's particular interests and abilities
- Explore alternative/customized methods to achieve goal
- Individualize career pathways

Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities



Services include:

- Information about colleges, the academic processes, FAFSA, contact information for the disability coordinator
- Create individual road maps/career counseling
- Types of academic and occupational training needed to succeed in the workplace and the best ways to reach it

Workplace readiness training

This service assists students with social and independent living skill development necessary for employment:

Examples include:

- Communication and interpersonal skills
- Financial literacy
- Job seeking skills



Instruction on Self Advocacy

Self Advocacy includes:

- Instructions on rights and responsibilities
- Training to request accommodations or services and supports
- Training to properly discuss concerns with management and achieve clarification on any issues on the job that may arise.
- Speak up for one's self.



Work-Based Learning Experiences

Work-based learning experiences may include:

- Work-site tours to learn about necessary job skills;
- Job sampling/shadowing in the community
- Provide opportunities for students to practice job tasks using on-site supports and/or general assistive technology in a competitive, integrated work setting

These services can and may be offered while in school, after school, or outside the traditional school setting.

Must be in the community to the maximum extent possible.

Paid Internship Grant

Student Internship Program - A DVRS Grant Funded Program providing students paid work experience

- 3 Weeks of Pre-Work Training- prepare for their internship
- 150 Hours of Paid Work at \$18 per Hour on an Approved Worksite (Minimum of 10 hours per Week)
- 3 Weeks of Post-Work Training- wrap up the overall experience
- Flexible Work Schedule Around School Hours
- Participants must be an in-school youth ages 14-21, have reliable transportation & must be able to safely and independently work within the community.
- Hours must be completed by the end of August for graduating seniors or by the end of September for students remaining in school

Referral for Pre-ETS Services

- The Referral: Being referred to DVRS is the 1st step!
- School staff typically makes the referral to DVRS.
- Students/Parents are encouraged to ask the school to make the referral to DVRS or may do so themselves.
- The Referral form is not an application.
- The Pre-Employment Student Referral Form is found on the LWD website.



Documentation needed prior to start of Pre-ETS services:

- Counselor will request the following from student's case manager or provider:
- A copy of the student's most recent psychological, social and learning assessments, and Individualized Educational Plan (IEP);
- Pertinent medical or psychiatric evaluations; and
- An assessment of the student's social skill levels and behavioral or safety issues should be included



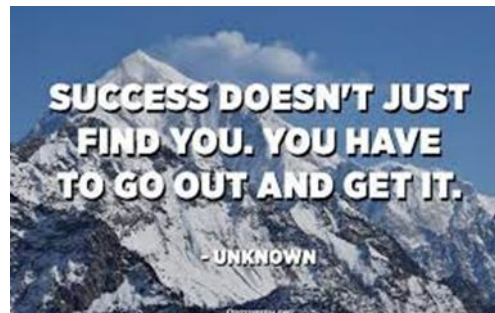
Transition from Pre-Ets Case to Traditional VR Case

"The ultimate goal is to create a smooth transition from school to work, so that students are prepared to begin work and/or post-secondary training that leads to employment."

- Step for DVRS VR Case:
 - Referral
 - Application
 - Eligibility/ Determination
 - IPE Development (Individual Plan for Employment)
 - Successful case Closure (Client has been employed for extended allocated time)

What services can DVRS provide?

- Vocational Assessment
- Job Development
- Job Coaching
- Assistive technology, Auxiliary Aids
- Funding for college, post-secondary training or vocational programs
- Tools & Equipment needed for a job
- Time limited funding for specific type of therapies
- And more...



Helpful Resources

- **Job Accommodation Network (JAN)**- www.askjan.org
- **The New Jersey Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN)** - www.NJCAN.org
- **My Next Move**- Career Planning website geared toward youth, www.mynextmove.org
- **Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP)**, US Dept. of Labor- www.dol.gov/odep
- **Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)**- Provides information, resources, support, and advocacy - www.spanadvocacy.org
- **Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)**- <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/home/>
- **CBVI** - www.nj.gov/humanservices/cbvi/home/

My Local DVRS Counselor

Allison Imbriale

Transition Counselor

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[New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#)
[Confidential Referral Form \(office.com\)](#)





QUESTIONS & ANSWERS