



DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK





Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) Office

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Website: <http://jobs4jersey.com/jobs4jersey/jobseekers/disable/index.html>

WHO IS DVRS?

- DVRS is a state agency, under the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) that helps individuals with disabilities prepare for, obtain, and maintain gainful employment.
- DVRS professional staff are master level vocational rehabilitation counselors who are trained to assist people with disabilities achieve successful employment outcomes.

MISSION STATEMENT

- It is the Mission of DVRS to “enable eligible individuals with disabilities to achieve an employment outcome consistent with their strengths, priorities, needs, abilities, and capabilities.”

TRANSITION STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS

- DVRS collaborates with school districts to provide consultation, eligibility determination and transition planning to students with disabilities
- The goal of this collaboration is for students to have a “seamless transition” from school to work!

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT (WIOA) 2014

- VR agencies must set aside 15% of federal funds to provide **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)** to students with disabilities.
- Student with a Disability:
 - Student still enrolled in secondary school and has not exited, graduated or withdrawn;
 - Is between the ages of 14 and 21 years old
 - Has a disability (i.e., receives services under an IEP or 504 plan)

**Students with disabilities who are home-schooled qualify for Pre-ETS Services*

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES: FIVE CORE SERVICES

- (1) Job Exploration
- (2) Counseling on Post-Secondary Enrollment Opportunities
- (3) Workplace Readiness Training
- (4) Instruction in Self-Advocacy
- (5) Work-based Learning Experience

**Services are based on availability of funds and resources*



PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES CONT.

- DVRS can provide 1 or more of the five activities under Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS).
 - Such services are based on the student's current Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- DVRS does not replace or duplicate any service your school district already provides.
- All services are voluntary and require the consent from the student's parent/guardian.

HOW TO GET STARTED

- **Being referred to DVRS is the 1st step!**
- School staff typically make the referral to DVRS. This fosters the collaboration between the school and DVRS and can streamline the process of obtaining school documentation related to the student's disability.
- Parents are encouraged to ask the school to make the referral to DVRS or may do so themselves if this has not happened by the time the student is two years away from exiting the school system.

**The referral form is not an application*

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN A REFERRAL TO DVRS

- Copy of the student's most recent IEP, psychological , social and learning assessments.
- Include a diagnosis (NJ Administrative Code 6A:14-3.5) and a current assessment of academic functioning.
- DOE's "Vocational Profile" (found on the DOE website) is an important tool to assist with planning as it documents strengths and limitations in functional terms and may note work interests and abilities gained through community work experiences
- Social skill levels and behavioral or safety issues should be included.

REFERRAL FORMS

- Pre-Employment Transition Services Student Referral form (students 14 to 21):
 - https://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/document/plan/Pre-ETS_Transition_Services_Student_Referral_Form.pdf
- VR-DVRS Confidential Referral Form (Online):
 - https://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/plan/foryou/disable/confidential_referral_form.shtml
- VR-DVRS Referral Form (Print):
 - https://careerconnections.nj.gov/careerconnections/document/plan/DVRS_Referral_Form.pdf

DVRS LOCAL OFFICES

- Atlantic County: 609-813-3933
- Bergen County: 201-996-8970
- Burlington County: 609-518-3948
- Camden County: 856-614-2500
- Cape May County: 609-523-0330
- Cumberland, Salem Counties: 856-453-3888
- Essex County: 973-648-3494
- Gloucester County: 856-384-3730
- Hudson County: 201-217-7180
- Hunterdon, Somerset Counties: 908-704-3030
- Mercer County: 609-292-2940
- Middlesex County: 732-937-6300
- Monmouth County: 732-775-1799
- Morris County: 862-397-5600 Ext. 3
- Ocean County: 732-505-2310
- Passaic County: 973-9742-9226
- Sussex & Warren Counties: 908-329-9190 Ext. 2
- Union County: 908-965-3940
- Administrative (Central) Office: 609-292-5987

QUESTIONS?..

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