



Utah State Office of Rehabilitation



THE VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Vocational Rehabilitation + Educators = *Success!*

WHAT IS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION?

- ▶ The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation's Vocational Rehabilitation Program, or VR, is not a one-size-fits-all menu of services. Instead it's an individualized and customized set of rehabilitative activities.
- ▶ Activities designed to help individuals learn more about their disability, how to overcome barriers to getting and keeping a job, and ways to be more self-reliant.

VR & Transition

- ▶ The role and responsibility of the VR Counselor is to work as a member of a transition team for each student who is referred or determined eligible to ensure a seamless transition from the Special Education system into the VR system.
- ▶ Individuals can apply for VR Services starting at age 16.

Who is the Transition Team?

- ▶ Student/Client
- ▶ Parent
- ▶ Teacher/ School Team Member
- ▶ School Employment Specialist
- ▶ School Psychologist
- ▶ VR Counselor

WHO CAN GET VR SERVICES?

- ▶ VR Counselors review medical records and initial interview information to make a determination of eligibility based on the following four criteria:
 - (1) Does a significant physical or mental impairment exist?
 - (2) Does this impairment result in a substantial impediment to employment?
 - (3) Does the individual require VR services?
 - (4) Will the individual benefit in terms of an employment outcome?

What Students May Be Eligible?

- ▶ Students with an IEP
- ▶ Students identified as 504
- ▶ Students diagnosed or undiagnosed with learning disabilities, mental health or substance abuse issues

HOW TO APPLY FOR VR SERVICES

- ▶ Step 1: Students can be referred to VR through by a Transition Team Member or they can contact VR directly.
- ▶ Step 2: The VR Counselor will coordinate a group or individual orientation session with the student and provide the application for services.
- ▶ Step 3: An appointment will be scheduled with the student (and parent is under 18) and the Transition Team at the school or the VR Office.

HOW TO APPLY FOR VR SERVICES

- ▶ Step 4: The Transition Team works together with the VR Counselor to gather information about the student's possible disability and employment barriers. This includes signing a release form to obtain medical records or a referral for a medical/psychological evaluation.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY?

- ▶ A determination of eligibility can take up to 60 days, depending on the availability of medical documentation.
- ▶ Individuals who are receiving Social Security Disability Benefits qualify for presumptive eligibility for VR Services

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION?

- ▶ The eligible student will work with their Transition Team to determine an appropriate Transition Plan.
- ▶ The student begins meeting with his/her VR Counselor to develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

The Purpose of the IPE

- ▶ The purpose of an IPE is to provide the student with a plan to help them transition educational to vocational planning. The end goal is gaining permanent employment.

IPE Development begins with:

- ▶ Gaining additional supporting documentation of the nature and scope of the clients disability from licensed professional.
- ▶ Determining how the disability will be remediated.

IPE Development (cont'd)

- ▶ Identifying the client's strengths, interest and experiences.
- ▶ Exploring comparable benefits and services.
- ▶ Selecting a Vocational Goal through tests, evaluations, assessing transferable skills, career research and vocational counseling.

The Role of the VR Counselor While the Student is Enrolled in School

- ▶ Attend IEP Meetings
- ▶ Collaborate with the Transition Team
- ▶ Conduct Individual Meetings with the Student
- ▶ Provide Vocational Counseling and Guidance
- ▶ Set-up Career Exploration Assessments
- ▶ Act as a liaison between family and school
- ▶ Identify and share resources

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH VR?

- ▶ Services available to clients depend on their vocational goal and restoration needs.
- ▶ All services provided must be included in the IPE and approved in advance.

Provision of Services

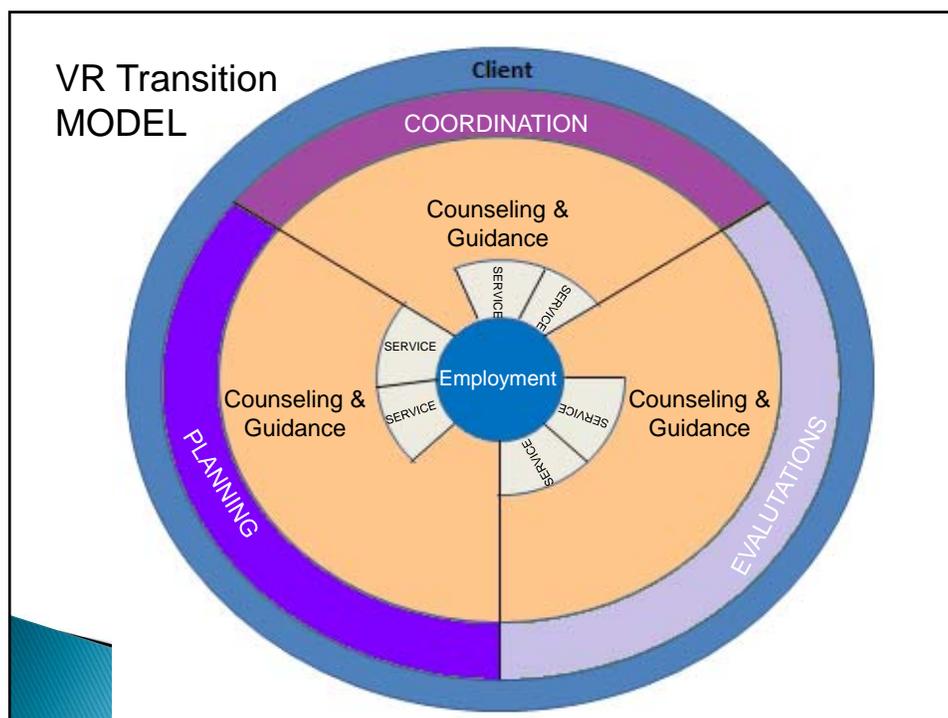
- ▶ The responsibility for service delivery lies with Education while the student with a disability is in school, and with VR when the student has been determined to be eligible for rehabilitation services and the primary focus shifts from the IEP to the IPE.

WHAT TYPES OF SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH VR?

- ▶ Possible services include:
 - Counseling and Guidance
 - Vocational Evaluation
 - Restoration services and treatment
 - Assistive Technology
 - Training and Education
 - Job Placement
 - Follow-up Services
 - Self-Employment

VOCATIONAL COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE

- ▶ A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will work individually with the client to provide support and assistance as he/she works toward reaching the job goal.



Vocational Evaluation

- ▶ VR has an in-house Vocational Evaluation Unit that provides assessments measuring intelligence, interest, aptitude, personality, work skills, transferable skills, and functional limitations; in addition to providing career recommendations and labor market information.
- ▶ This Voc. Eval Report can be shared with Transition Team.

Supported Employment Service

- ▶ The VR Counselor will assist in obtaining any information about options for Supported Employment Services:
 - Division of Services for People with Disabilities (DSPD)
 - SWI (DSPD Waitlist Program)

WHEN DO VR SERVICES END?

- ▶ A client's case will close when they have completed their IPE and transitioned into full employment for at least 90 days. Even after a case is closed, client can receive post-employment services if they need help to keep their job.
- ▶ Clients that fail to comply with their IPE and do not make progress toward remediation of a disability or towards a vocational goal will have their case closed by VR.

Questions?



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION....

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