

Helping students transition *from school to work*

Do you know a student with a disability who needs specific services in order to prepare for, get, or keep a job?

New Jersey's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services works with students with disabilities and their families, school districts, and other service providers to coordinate "transition services" from school to work. Services are available for eligible students with disabilities. New Jersey has been an "Employment First" state since 2012, and our services are focused on preparing people for suitable employment, as a means to personal fulfillment and more independent living.

How does it work?

Students with disabilities are usually referred to DVRS by their schools. When a student reaches age 14, DVRS counselors can begin working with the student, their parents and schools to consider the student's vocational rehabilitation needs and vocational planning for their future. All parties involved in the student's future may provide input in developing a transition plan.

Transition services are a set of activities that support the transition plan, and are coordinated through the school system. Services may include vocational planning and activities, community-based job sampling and instruction in daily living skills.

While the student is still in school, DVRS may provide

- consultation with school-based vocational programs
- consultations about the student's disability-related needs, and
- vocational counseling and guidance

Then, upon graduating from high school or within two years of exiting the secondary school system, a student who wants to work and who needs DVRS services may apply to DVRS. When the student is eligible for services, the student and their DVRS counselor together develop an "Individualized Plan for Employment." This plan specifies the student's chosen vocational goal and the services that the student agrees are necessary to support successful employment.

Services may include

- vocational counseling and guidance
- career preparation such as resume development, interview preparation, job placement, and referral to a job coach (to provide on-the-job support)

In addition, a student who meets the DVRS financial needs assessment may receive funding for college or trade school, assistive technology devices, and time-limited therapies such as physical therapy, psychotherapy, and more.

Once the student has been successfully employed for at least 90 days and is no longer receiving services provided or sponsored by DVRS, their case is closed. A case may be reopened if needed in the future.

Find your local DVRS office

Scan this code with your smartphone



or find us online at nj.gov/labor, then choose Vocational Rehabilitation or call 609-292-5987.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer with equal opportunity programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Chris Christie, *Governor*
Harold J. Wirths, *Commissioner*

