

School to Work Services



Providing Assistance to Transition-Age Students

What Is Vocational Rehabilitation?

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as “VR,” assists individuals with disabilities to get and keep a job. VR works with students as they transition to the world of work. VR believes that one of the best ways for young people to learn about how their skills and interests match with career opportunities is through paid work experience in their communities.

NEW! Pre-Employment Transition Services DVR is now offering Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities, beginning at age 14 (9th grade) who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services.

Pre-ETS are primarily delivered to groups of youth in partnership with schools and other organizations and are designed to assist students to start preparing for post-secondary education and employment earlier. Pre-ETS might include business tours, job shadows, work readiness skills training, and activities to build independent living skills. Students who are interested in participating in Pre-ETS activities can do so by requesting a registration form from their school or local VR office.

At What Age Should A Student Apply For Services?

If a student needs more individualized services than Pre-ETS, then a referral is encouraged, two years prior to the expected high school graduation date. Referring a student while in high school allows time for students and their VR counselors to start working towards employment goals.

Who Is Eligible For VR Services?

To be eligible for VR, a student must apply for services.

An applicant must:

1. have a documented disability that creates a barrier to getting or keeping a job; OR
2. require VR services to find or keep a job. High school and medical records can usually provide the necessary documentation.

If a student receives Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on his/her disability and has an interest in working, the student is presumed eligible.

How Do Students Apply? please go to:

www.maine.gov/rehab/dvr/youth_transition.shtml or you can also call your local CareerCenter, or ask your teacher for assistance. The expectation from VR is that the student will actively participate in planning for their employment.

How Do Students Reach Their Employment Goals?

The key to work success is good planning. The VR counselor will work with the student to develop a plan based on the student’s interests and skills, where the student might live after graduation, and what types of transportation are available. If you have an Individual Education Program (IEP) at school, it is very helpful to invite your VR counselor to your team meeting.

What Services Does VR Provide?

Every person’s employment plan is different. VR will consider any service you need to achieve the agreed upon vocational goal.

As you identify careers, VR can provide information about the skills and training you need. If training is necessary, VR may help with the cost of the program. If you need a Job Coach (on-the-job support), VR will provide one and generally services end 90 days after you start working.



What About Education After High School?

VR encourages the pursuit of higher education when students have:

1. a specific employment goal that requires further education.
2. the necessary academic skills and abilities to successfully complete such training.

The VR counselor will work with the student to discuss and explain the types of post-secondary accommodations that may be available to help ensure academic success.

If you are considering higher education, you should ask your counselor for more information.

www.maine.gov/rehab/dvr

Client Assistance Program (CAP),
CAP is an advocacy program that provides information and assistance to individuals who are applying for, or receiving VR services. CAP exists to answer your questions, clarify the VR process, and if necessary, represent you to help resolve a problem or concern.

For more information about CAP, contact:

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Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

The Maine Department of Labor provides equal opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request. Programs are provided as a proud partner of the American Job Center network.