

# Vocational Rehabilitation and the pathway to meaningful transition

MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR

May 9, 2023

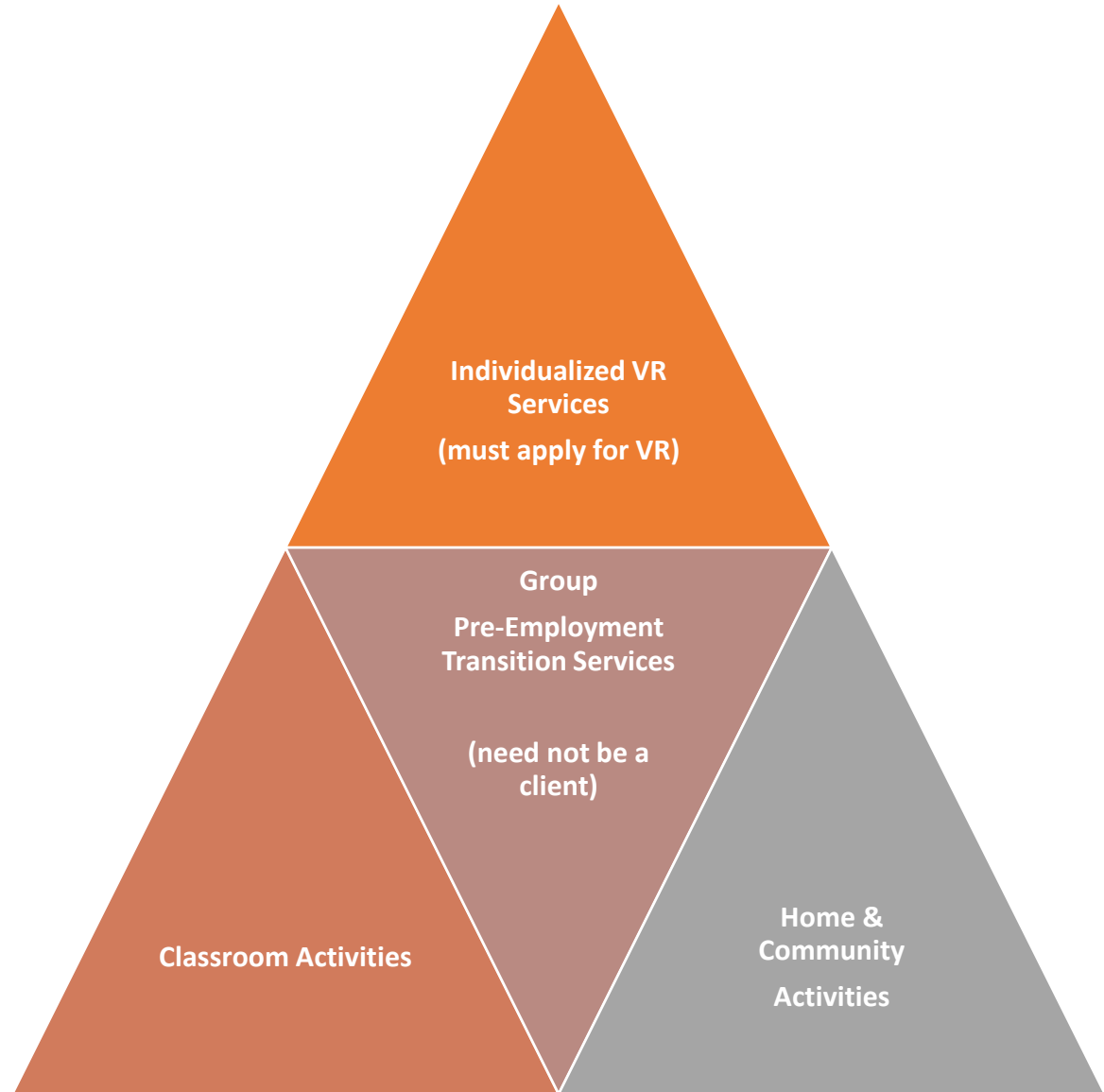
*Division of Vocational Rehabilitation*

*Division for the Blind and Visually Impaired*

A proud partner of the

AmericanJobCenter®  
network

# Building Skills for Employment



# Pre-Employment Transition Services

- 1. Job Exploration Counseling**
  - Available to students with disabilities ages 14 to 22
- 2. Work-based Learning Experiences**
- 3. Counseling on Opportunities for Post-Secondary Training and Education**
  - Designed to be delivered in groups in collaboration with schools
- 4. Workplace Readiness Training to Develop Social Skills and Independent Living**
- 5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy**
  - Easy one page registration form

# VR Services

(Note: Some services are purchased; some services are provided directly by VR staff)

- Vocational Guidance and Counseling
- Career Exploration
- Work-Based Learning
- Education/Training needed for employment
- Job development and placement
- Job coaching
- Assistive technology
- Support services, tools, uniforms or other equipment needed to start employment
- Self-employment
- Orientation and Mobility
- Vocational Rehabilitation Therapy
- Progressive Employment
- Pre-Employment Transition Services for students with a disability

# Applying for VR Services

- Complete an application online at

DBVI:

<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/dbvi/index.shtml>

DVR:

<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/dvr/vr.shtml>

Or...

Go to DVR/DBVI website and download/submit an application

Contact local office to request an application

Or...

To Access Pre-Employment Transition Services only:

<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/docs/2020/dvr/RequestforPreEmploymentTransitionServices.docx>

# Strengthening Connections with VR

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- For a list of Transition VR Counselors:  
<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/docs/2023/youthtransition/TransitionCounselors.docx>
- In addition to Transition VR Counselors, DVR has Statewide Rehabilitation Counselor Is who are available to provide 1-1 and group Pre-Employment Transition Services activities with your students virtually or in-person
- All students who receive Special Ed services or who have a 504 plan are eligible for Pre-Employment Transition Services  
<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/docs/2020/dvr/RequestforPreEmploymentTransitionServices.docx> these services are designed to be delivered collaboratively with schools



# New Opportunities

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- **BRS Apprenticeship Navigator** – Amanda Muller promoting access to Pre-Apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship for individuals with disabilities.
- **Extended Learning Opportunities** – VR can partner with ELO Coordinators to provide support for students in preparation for, during and after ELO activities – and work to ensure ELO is integrated into a student's employment plan.
- **WINDMILLS Curriculum** – Certified trainers from VR can bring modules of this disability awareness curriculum to your school
- **Progressive Employment** – Working with job seekers and employers, this model brings together students with local employers of interest to them for tours, job shadows, and paid work experience activities .
- Need Information on **labor laws** for minors? – VR can assist and please check out MDOL's new website:  
<https://www.maine.gov/labor/schoolresources/>



# Driver's Education! NEW!!

- Did you know ? Due to recent changes – students with disabilities (have a 504 plan or receive special education services – up to age 22 are **eligible for driver's education paid through Vocational Rehabilitation.**
- Driver's education is considered a “work readiness” activity under **Pre-Employment Transition Services**
- Students can request the service through an **easy one-page** Pre-ETS registration form:  
<https://www.maine.gov/rehab/docs/2020/dvr/RequestforPreEmploymentTransitionServices.docx>



# Pre-ETS Goodwill Bootcamp



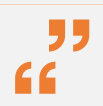
In school program offered through VR's partnership with Goodwill



Designed to promote skill-building in all areas of Pre-Employment Transition Services



Following modules, students complete a paid work experience



Available in Kennebec, Somerset, Knox, Waldo, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Androscoggin, Oxford, and Franklin Counties

# Summer Opportunities – 2023

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- **Summer Work Experience Program** – Paid work experience for high school students with local employers.
- **College Bus Tours** – Travel by coach to visit colleges and universities across the state. Sleep in the dorms, eat in the café, learn about academic supports and college life:
  - Southern Tour: June 26-30
  - Northern Tour: July 31 – August 4
- **STEP UP** – Going on its 5<sup>th</sup> year, this college prep program for students with ASD is held at the University of Maine and offers a 3 credits of course work focusing on college and career readiness, college prep seminars, and social skills programming. Students learn about dorm life and participate in recreational activities on and off campus.
  - July 10 – 21 – Part 1 (on campus)
  - July 24 – August 11 – Part 2 ( virtual)
  - Offered in collaboration with Div. for the Blind and Visually Impaired “**College Prep**” program
- **Virtual Job Club** – In combination with summer work or as a stand-alone activity, Virtual Job Clubs offer a variety of modules that teach students about the world of work through fun engaging activities.
- **PEERS®** - UCLA-developed 14-week social skills curriculum delivered via certified trainers over Zoom. New Cohort forming late May - Open to ages 14-24 with ASD. Practical and fun!



# Summer Opportunities - DBVI

## LIFE Camp:

- LIFE – Learning, Independence, Fun and Employment
- 2-week residential program
- Students learned about the world of work and appropriate dress
- Students participated in community service
- Students learned about self-advocacy
  
- Also...
  - College Prep Program
  - Family Fun Day
  - No Barriers



# Job Coach/Employment Specialist Training

No Cost – In-person and hybrid opportunities



You can become a Maine Certified Employment Specialist and get the ACRE National Certificate in Employment Services at the same time!

Are you helping students or other individuals with disabilities to do career exploration, career planning, job development, and/or job coaching? Would you like to become a Maine Certified Employment Specialist?

*Both options listed below are being offered free of charge!*

The ACRE Certificate documents 40 hours of professional development. Go to [www.maineworkingtogether.org](http://www.maineworkingtogether.org) to register for either training. Any accommodation requests must be made at least three weeks prior to the start of the training.



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For More  
Information

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The Maine Department of Labor provides Equal Opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available to individuals with disabilities upon request