



Veronda L. Durden
Commissioner

Dear Student and Parent or Guardian:

Are you prepared for life after high school? There are services available to help you to get and keep a job; and most importantly become independent! Students with disabilities may be eligible for these services from the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS). Your school has a Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor from the Division for Rehabilitation Services (DRS) that can help you prepare for the employment, or training services you will need to succeed after high school.

The Division for Rehabilitation Services is a state agency that helps people with disabilities explore their abilities; choose a job goal that matches those abilities; and access services they need to reach that job goal. DRS offers many services to help young adults with disabilities create the kind of future they want. Services may include: work assessments; counseling and guidance; training, including on-the-job training; adaptive aids and assistive devices; job readiness training; job placement; and supported employment services.

A DRS Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor can be part of your transition planning team and can help you with carrying out your plan for employment even after you have graduated from school. An important part of the school's role in assisting the transition of students with disabilities to adult life is identifying and referring students who may benefit from services. A referral does not automatically result in eligibility for VR services. While students with disabilities in the public school system are entitled to a free appropriate public education (FAPE), they must be determined eligible through an individualized assessment process before receiving VR services.

A full intake and evaluation can take several days, so we encourage students to apply during their Junior Year in high school, so assessments can be conducted during the summer before their Senior Year, if possible. Students who are Seniors this year, are encouraged to apply in the Fall Semester (before Christmas Break) of their last year in high school.

Sincerely,

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Division for Rehabilitation Services

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