



DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

# Vocational Rehabilitation: Your Partner to Career Success

Rehabilitation Services Administration

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# AGENDA

- VR Defined
- VR Transition Services
- Referral Process
- Resources
- Things to Remember



# Objectives

- Understand the referral process, VR eligibility criteria, and possible VR services for high school students
- Understand how VR collaborates with Arizona high schools to provide technical assistance for IEP transition planning

# What is Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)?

An employment program for individuals

- With a documented disability
- Whose disability creates a barrier to employment
- Who want to work
- Who need VR services to prepare for, get, or keep a job.



# Order of Selection

- Priority 1: Individuals with most significant disabilities that seriously limit 3 or more major life areas & who require multiple VR services over extended period
- Priority 2: Individuals with significant disabilities that seriously limit 1 or more major life areas & who require multiple VR services over extended period
- Priority 3: Eligible individuals without serious limitations in one or more major life areas & who do not require multiple VR services over extended period

# How does VR work with youth?

VR collaborates with high schools and high school youth to help them plan for career goals:

- Outreach Activities (presentations to students, families, staff about VR): who to refer, when to refer, how to refer
- Consultation and Technical Assistance for IEP Transition Planning, including identification of potential community services
- Coordination of Services
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) Development prior to high school exit for students who are VR participants

## Referral to VR

- At any point in HS experience when youth is ready to address career goals
- Youth must be willing to work with VR counselor to identify career interests and functional limitations
- Youth will participate in career exploration activities, and may also participate in adjustment to disability and/or work readiness activities

# Referral to VR

- Referral may come from school, parent, other agency, or student may self-refer
- RSA Referral Form used, release of information from parent/guardian or student 18years+ needed
- Other documents included with referral are the psycho-educational evaluation, the latest IEP, and any medical documentation applicable

# Intake and Eligibility

- Students who are under age 18 must have a parent/guardian present for intake
- Intakes generally occur at the local VR office
- VR counselor has sixty (60) days to complete the eligibility determination process
- The student will receive a letter that indicates eligibility status and the student's Order of Selection priority.

# Individualized Plan for Employment

- Identifies career goal, activities and services required to reach goal
- Results of formal & informal assessments considered, transition plan in IEP reviewed
- VR counselor may request the student to complete additional career research
- VR counselor may request the student to participate in additional assessments
- Plan must be in place prior to high school exit

# Possible Plan Services

- Work readiness activities (job search skills, soft skills, etc.)
- Adjustment to disability
- Job development and placement
- Job training (on the job, vocational, college)
- Assistive Technology, including evaluation, training
- Independent living skills development
- Information and referral to other community services
- Vocational counseling and guidance

# Case Closure

Successful closure when:

- IPE services are complete
- Client is in a stable job that meets the IPE vocational goal
- Client has been employed & stable minimum of 90 days
- Client earns at least minimum wage
- No additional VR services anticipated

# Case Closure

Unsuccessful closure when:

- Client declines to participate in VR or requests case closure
- Client is no longer eligible for VR services
- Client fails to respond to repeated requests for contact
- Client is otherwise unavailable to participate in services

# Is that all there is?

Post employment services:

- \* Client was closed “successfully employed” no more than one year
- \* Client requires additional VR services to maintain, regain, or advance in employment

A new VR case is opened when:

- \* Client has a new disability
- \* Client requests help with a new IPE goal
- \* Successful case closure was more than twelve months ago

# REMEMBER!

- Vocational Rehabilitation provides employment services for those whose disability creates barriers to preparing for, getting, or keeping a job.
- VR is available at any point in an individual's working life.
- VR services are based on the disability related needs of the individual.
- There are VR offices around the state, and six of the Native American tribes in Arizona have their own VR agencies. More information is available at [www.azdes.gov/rsa](http://www.azdes.gov/rsa)

QUESTIONS....



# TRANSITION TEAM

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