



**Vocational Rehabilitation
Helps You Engage in the
Experience of Employment**

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

Who is RSA/VR ?

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) is the agency

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the program

Mission

Arizona Rehabilitation Services Administration works with individuals with disabilities to achieve their goals for employment and independence.

WHAT AND WHO

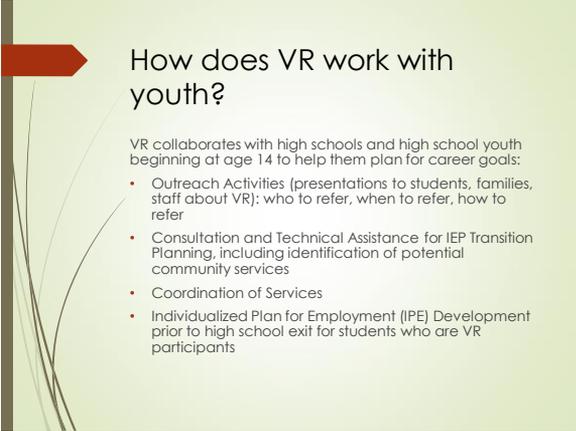
VR is an **employment program** for individuals

- 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 functional capacities in terms of an employment outcome; and whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require 2 or more VR services over an extended period of time.
- **Priority 2:** Individuals with significant disabilities that seriously limit 1 or more functional capacities in terms of an employment outcome; and whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require 2 or more VR services over an extended period of time.
- **Priority 3:** A person with a physical or mental impairment that seriously limits 1 functional capacity in terms of an employment outcome; and whose vocational rehabilitation can be expected to require 1 VR services over a limited period of time.



How does VR work with youth?

VR collaborates with high schools and high school youth beginning at age 14 to help them plan for career goals:

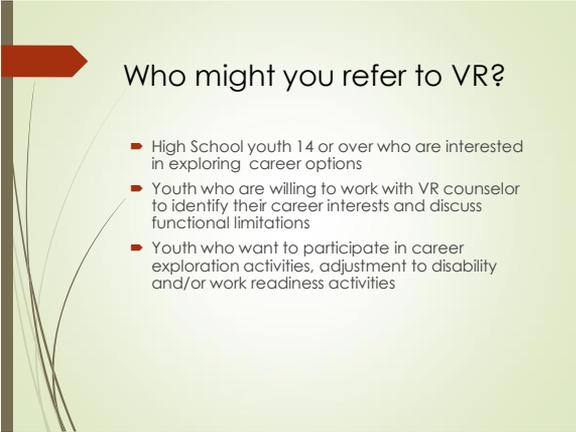
- Outreach Activities (presentations to students, families, staff about VR): who to refer, when to refer, how to refer
- Consultation and Technical Assistance for IEP Transition Planning, including identification of potential community services
- Coordination of Services
- Individualized Plan for Employment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



Pre-Employment Transition Services

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) agencies to provide "pre-employment transition services" to "Students with Disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services."

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work based learning experiences (in-school or after school outside traditional school setting, internships)
- Counseling on opportunities for comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living skills
- Self-advocacy instruction



Who might you refer to VR?

- High School youth 14 or over who are interested in exploring career options
- Youth who are willing to work with VR counselor to identify their career interests and discuss functional limitations
- Youth who want to participate in career exploration activities, adjustment to disability and/or work readiness activities

Referral Process

- Who refers: schools, parents, other agencies or student may self-refer
- How: RSA Referral Form, release of information from parent/guardian when student is under 18 or student 18 years+
- 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 (IPE) Process

Federal regulations require the development of an IPE within 90 days of eligibility

- VR counselor may request the student to complete additional career research
- Results of formal & informal assessments considered, transition plan in IEP reviewed
- VR counselor may request the student to participate in additional assessments
- IPE identifies career goal, objectives, activities and services required to reach goal
- IPE 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, integrated, competitive job that meets the IPE vocational goal
- Client has been stable in employment a 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 prior
- 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 <https://des.az.gov>

The Future's So Bright



QUESTIONS....



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