ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY
Rehabilitation Services Administration
Vocational Rehabilitation

READY FOR WORK?

VR can help with your school-to-work transition!

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WHAT IS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR)?

The Vocational Rehabilitation program provides a variety of services to persons with disabilities, with the ultimate goal to prepare for, enter into, or retain employment.

If you have a disability, regardless of whether or not you are in Special Education, the VR program may be an important step as you begin planning your transition from school. Services may begin while you are still in school or after you exit school.

Step 1 Referral

Your high school or another agency may refer you to VR, or you may refer yourself. Referral may occur at any point during your high school experience when you are ready to plan for your future career. The VR Counselor will work with the school to make sure all necessary paperwork has been provided to VR.

Step 2 — Application and Intake Interview

You will be contacted by the VR counselor to meet, complete an application, and participate in an intake interview. The interview will allow the counselor to get to know you and collect information to determine your eligibility for the VR program and your Order of Selection (OOS) Priority Category.

Step 3 — Eligibility Determination and Order of Selection (OOS)

Within 60 days of your application date, you will know if you are eligible for the VR program and if you are able to start receiving services. When resources are limited, the VR program may institute a waitlist for services called an Order of Selection. The law requires that individuals with the most significant disabilities be served first. Individuals on the waitlist are served as funds become available.

Step 4 **Planning and Development of Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)**

Planning an employment goal usually starts while you are still in school and is part of the school IEP. Your VR counselor and school will help you explore your career options and develop a plan with VR called an IPE. The IPE will state your employment goal and the VR services you might need in order to obtain your employment goal.

Step 5 **Participation in Services that lead to Successful Employment**

Active participation in the services listed on your IPE will allow you to address your disability-related needs and prepare for employment.

Step 6 **Obtain and Maintain Employment**

Once you have obtained employment, VR will monitor your situation to ensure you are adjusting well to your new job duties. Your case will then be closed.

Common Questions

Not sure if VR is right for you?

VR offers short-term job readiness services to students with disabilities. Utilize Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) to explore specific careers and job tools. Type 'Pre-ETS' in the search bar on des.az.gov to find more information.

What types of services does VR provide?

Services that could be available to you are:

- **Assistive Technology (AT)**
- **Vocational training and guidance**
- **Education and training**
- **Job coaching**
- **And more!**

What is involved in IPE Planning?

Your VR counselor will work with you to

- **Identify your strengths, skills, interests and abilities**
- **Explore potential career options**
- **Complete labor market research to see if jobs are available in your area of interest**
- **Understand how job wages may impact any benefits you receive**
- **Determine and document the steps and services you will need to achieve your job goal**

**Visit the AZRSA website at des.az.gov/rsa
to find a VR office near you,
or call 1-800-563-1221.**

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