



Transition Services Basics

Regional Quality Council Presentation for Youth and Families



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Introductions

- Kara Tempel, Minnesota Department of Education (MDE)
- Holly Sunderman, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development – Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DEED-VRS)
- Alyssa Klein, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development – Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DEED-VRS)
- Marcy LaCroix, Community Capacity Builder, Disability Hub MN

Agenda

- What are Transition Services?
- Special education transition services
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services/State Services for the Blind
- Waivers
- Disability Hub MN

What are Transition Services?

- A **coordinated** set of activities to help youth with disabilities ages 14 and older move from school toward their best life in adulthood. Services are **outcome-oriented** and based on a youth's **educational needs and preferences for their future**.
- May include instruction, community experiences, employment and other postschool adult-living objectives — all based on a youth's individual needs.
- Federal laws:
 - [Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#)
 - [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\)](#)

Transition services roles



Special Education Transition Services

Definition of Transition Services

Transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- (1) Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focuses on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, and/or community participation.

34 C.F.R. § 300.43(a)

Definition of Transition Services

(2) Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and includes-

- Instruction;
- Related services;
- Community experiences;
- The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives and;
- If appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and a functional vocational evaluation.

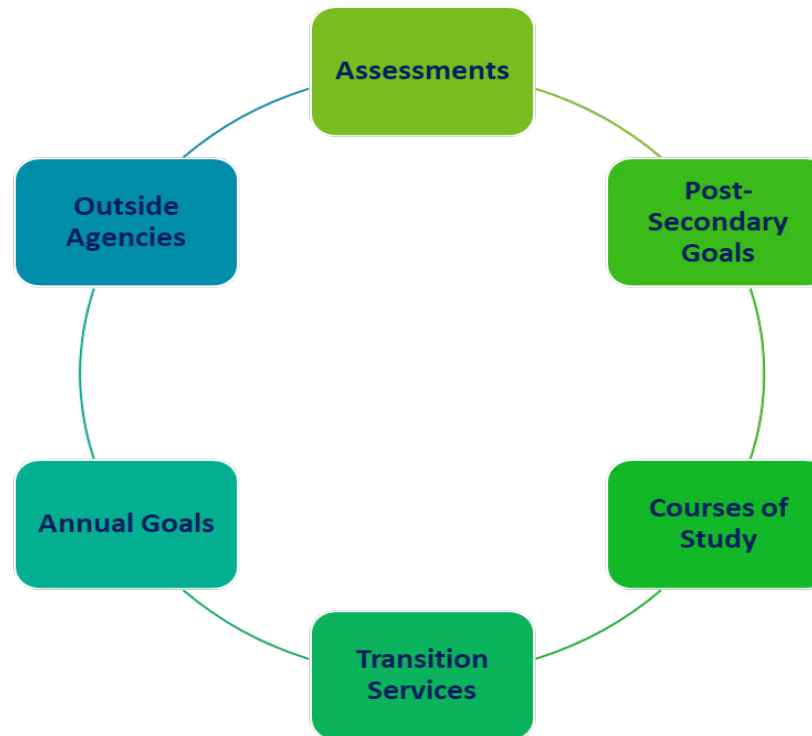
34 C.F.R. § 300.43(a)

What is meant by transition for youth with disabilities?

- When adolescents are moving into adulthood and are planning for postsecondary education, careers, health care, financial benefits, housing, recreation and leisure activities, and more.
- Continuation of service across both child and adult service systems
- **The transition from youth to adulthood is critical for every young person.**

MDE Special Education-Transition

- Secondary Transition Planning is the process of preparing students for life after high school and includes planning for postsecondary education or training, employment, and independent living.



What Does High Quality Transition Planning Look Like?

- Schools are the primary provider of transition services, collaborating with Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) or State Services for the Blind (SSB) to fill in the gaps. This partnership ultimately increases outcomes.
 - Example: A student would like to gain work experience in childcare. The school does not have a relationship with a childcare program. VRS has business relationships and assists in identifying a work site at a childcare center. School and VRS work together to support student.
- IEP updated at least annually. Includes measurable postsecondary goals based on age-appropriate transition assessments related to the 3 areas of transition.
- Invite VRS/SSB and waiver case managers to IEP meetings!

Secondary Transition Planning (continued)

- Transition age range: 14 to 22
- IEP must contain specific transition goals, plans and services related to his or her interests and needs.
- Families are a required partner on the IEP team and play a valuable role in helping support youth as they work to fulfill their dreams for adulthood.
- Parents/Guardians are helping their child plan for life!

Secondary Transition Planning In a Nutshell

Assists students with disabilities in identifying and achieving their long-range goals.

- Increases **graduation** rates
- Increases enrollment in **postsecondary education**.
- Increase competitive integrated **employment** rates.
- Increase **independent living** skills.

Legal Foundation: When

- During grade 9, the plan must address the student's needs for transition from secondary services to postsecondary education and training, employment, community participation, recreation, and leisure and home living.

Minnesota Statute 125A.08(b)(1)

Transfer of Rights

- Beginning not later than **one year before the child reaches the age of majority** under State law, the IEP must include a statement that the child has been informed of the child's right under Part B of the Act, if any, that will transfer to the child on reaching the age of majority.

34 CFR § 300.320(c)

Minnesota Statute 125A.04

High School Diploma



- Upon completion of secondary school or the equivalent, a pupil with a disability who satisfactorily attains the objectives in the pupil's individual education plan must be granted a high school diploma that is identical to the diploma granted to a pupil without a disability.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)

- State employment services agency that serves people with disabilities
- Division of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
 - State Services for the Blind (SSB) is a sister agency that serves those who are blind, low vision or DeafBlind
- Partner in the CareerForce system
 - 50 CareerForce locations in the state
- **VRS serves youth and adults: Any Age 14+!**



Services VRS Provides

- Career Counseling
- Job Training
- Job Placement
- Services to Keep a Job
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- And more!



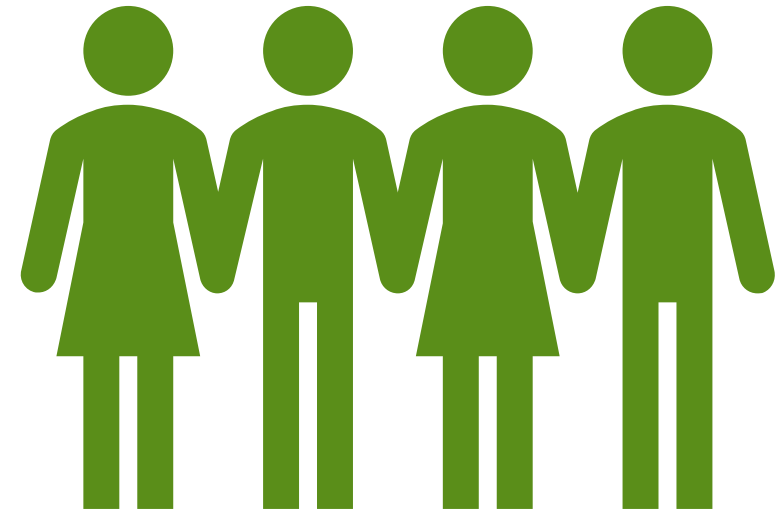
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Postsecondary Education Counseling
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy

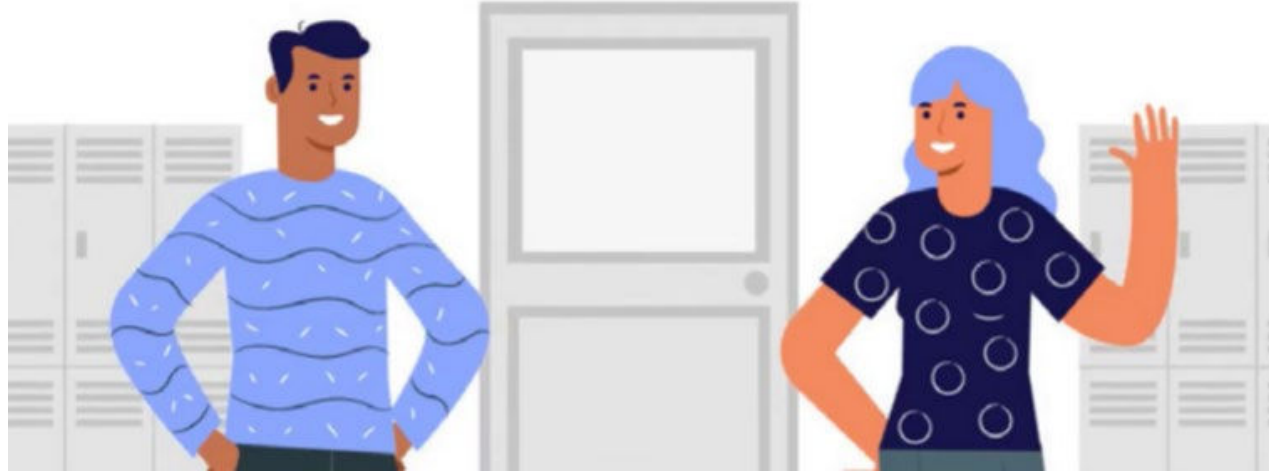


Who is a “Student with a Disability”?

- Has an IEP (in special education); **or**
- 504 plan; **or**
- Other medical/mental health documentation



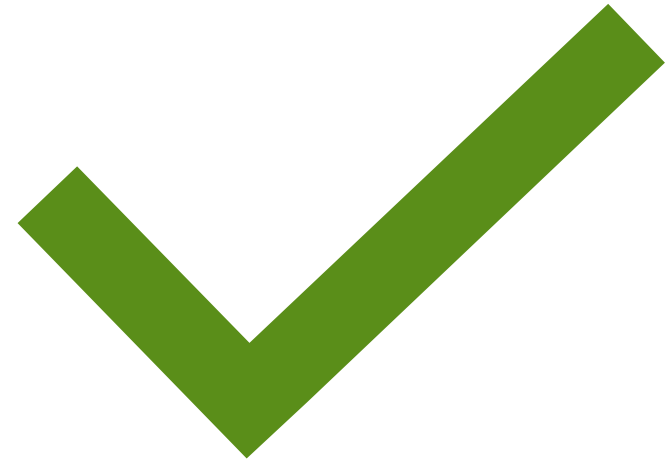
VRS: Two VRS Staff Assigned to Every School



- VR Counselor and Pre-ETS Representative
 - No wrong door: Send referrals to either staff person
 - [Find the staff assigned to your school](#)
 - Or email Alyssa at alyssa.klein@state.mn.us

Steps for Accessing VRS Services

1. Contact one of the [VRS staff assigned to the student's school](#)
2. They will set up a meeting to explain services and provide an application packet
 - Ideally the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) are there
3. VRS verifies student eligibility for services
4. Planning for services begins...



...Planning for Services

- Ideally a team meeting is held with student, parent(s)/guardian(s), school staff (i.e. IEP case manager)
- Discuss:
 - Pre-ETS needs and what VRS will provide
 - How services will be coordinated with school services
 - How and when services will be provided
 - How communication will take place
 - Follow-up meetings



VRS Contracts with Community Agencies

- Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs)
- Centers for Independent Living (CILs)
- CareerForce



Flyer and Video for Students and Families



What are they? Who are they for? How can I get them?

What are they?



The Minnesota Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) program partners with high schools and other community partners to arrange for or provide any of the following five services at no charge to students:

1. **Job Exploration:** Exploring interests and careers to start preparing for your future now
2. **Work Experience:** Gain skills and experience through seeing and trying out jobs you are interested in
3. **Training and College Exploration:** Exploring options for training or job skills (such as community, technical and 4-year college options, certificate and apprenticeship programs, etc.)
4. **Work Readiness Training:** Learning basic skills to find and keep a job (such as how to fill out a job application, figure out transportation, and how you use money)
5. **Self-Advocacy Training:** Learn about your strengths, challenges, preferences, and supports so that you can speak up for yourself and ask for what you need to be successful

VRS also provides additional supports to those who qualify.

Who are they for?

VRS Student Career Services are available to students who are between the ages of 14 through 21 and who have one of the following:

- ✓ An Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- ✓ A 504 plan
- ✓ A record or note from a mental health or medical provider
- ✓ A Social Security Administration (SSA) beneficiary award letter

How can I get them?

VRS has Student Career Services available across the state.
Find the VRS staff that serve your school at: mn.gov/deed/vrs-student



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

The pre-employment transition services provided under the VRS program are funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education with a state match. For federal fiscal year 2021, the total amount of federal grant funds used for these services is \$6,495,287 (15 percent of total federal appropriation). The state appropriation indirectly supports the pre-employment transition spending and amounts to \$1,757,937.

mn EMPLOYMENT AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



[Click here](#) for video
[Click here](#) for flyer

Adults: Accessing VRS

The logo for Workforce One, with "WORKFORCE" in white text on a blue background and "ONE" in white text on a black background.

Interest Form for Rehabilitation Services

We are excited you are interested in learning more about Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS). Please fill out the form below so that we can connect you with the office closest to you! A staff person will respond to you as soon as possible. Please know, in some locations we are experiencing high volumes of interest, and it may take a VRS staff person longer to connect with you.

Name

***First Name**

***Last Name**

Preferred Name

Pronoun

[Click here to
complete
Interest Form](#)

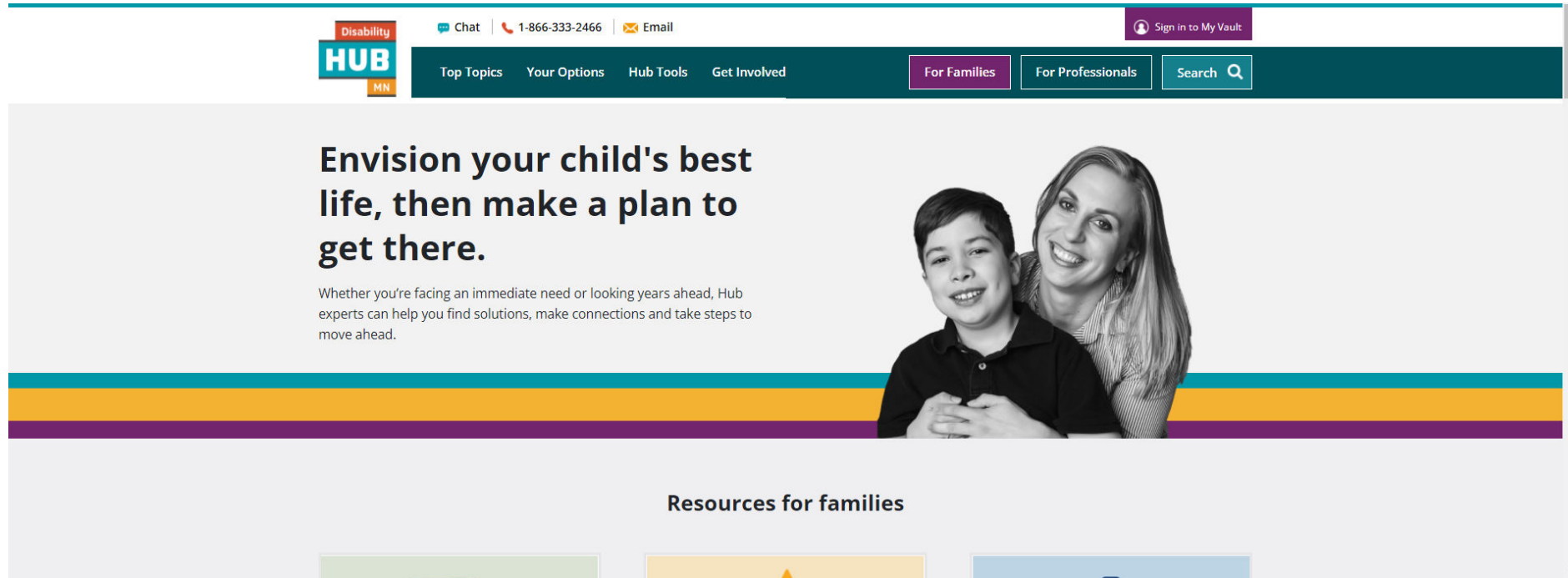
Waiver Services

Waiver Overview

- Home and community-based services (HCBS) waivers help pay for services to stay living at home or in a community setting chosen by and fitting for a person.
- Eligibility includes:
 - Certified disabled by Social Security of the MN State Medical Review Team (SMRT)
 - Completion of a MNChoices assessment through the local county or tribal office.
 - Qualify for a disability-based Medical Assistance
- Different waiver types to meet varying needs

Disability Hub MN

Other Resources: Disability Hub MN



<https://disabilityhubmn.org/for-families>

Contact Information

- Sarah Robinson (MDE):
sarah.robinson@state.mn.us
- Holly Sunderman (DEED-VRS):
holly.sunderman@state.mn.us
- Alyssa Klein (DEED-VRS):
alyssa.klein@state.mn.us
- Marcy LaCroix (Disability Hub):
866-333-2466,
www.disabilityhubmn.org

