



TRANSITION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



Get to know the Program

The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Programs provide individualized services to assist students with disabilities in a seamless transition from high school to a meaningful career path. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA), every student with a disability has the opportunity to participate in Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) through VR, including sponsored job exploration counseling, work readiness training, work-based learning experiences, postsecondary educational counseling, and self-advocacy training (including training delivered by peer mentors). Students with disabilities may participate in Pre-ETS without having to apply to VR or be determined eligible for services. The focus is to develop work skills, practice social skills, and acquire a network of community supports while the student is still in high school. Pre-ETS and other brochures are available in English, Spanish and Creole on the VR website at www.Rehabworks.org or by calling toll-free at (800) 451-4327.

Who we Support

VR supports students in both secondary and postsecondary programs using evidence-based models that have proven effective in serving those with the most significant disabilities. These efforts are increasing VR's capacity to deliver services, while sustaining programs that result in employment.

VR SUPPORTS STUDENTS IN VARIOUS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING:

- **Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) Programs** provide age-appropriate opportunities for learning, employment preparation, recreational activities, social interactions, and the development of natural supports to students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Many of the 15 recognized programs across the state offer an authentic college experience while pairing youth with peer, academic, and community mentors. The Florida State College at Jacksonville's VERTICAL Training Program was the first program of its kind to deliver career and technical training leading to industry-recognized certifications.
 - **Project SEARCH** is a collaborative partnership between a local school district, a host business, a community rehabilitation provider and VR. Students ages 18-21 spend their entire last year in high school at a business learning transferable and marketable work skills necessary to secure a meaningful career. Florida has almost doubled the number of program sites in the last 3 years and is second in the nation only to Ohio, where the program began. Florida is often recognized by the National Project Search program for these and other accomplishments.
 - **Discovery** is an alternative to traditional assessments that are often ineffective for students with the most significant disabilities. A minimum of 30 hours of observations of the student in real life help evaluators identify where the student is at his or her best. That information is then used to match the student and an employer, so that everyone's needs are met. Discovery services are offered through specially trained VR providers, based on availability. VR provider capacity is increasing across the state.
- 
- **VR Summer Youth Program** is an opportunity for students to receive Pre-Employment Transition Services in a bundled format. Providers of this service have the flexibility to offer any combination of the Pre-ETS, weaving the instruction of the selected services, to create a unique Summer Youth Program experience for students.
 - **Pre-Employment Transition Services** have been added to support student access, including:
 - ↳ **Self-Advocacy Training** is a course with experiential instruction that focuses on the student's development of advocacy and self-determination skills. At a minimum, students learn about their rights under IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act, self-awareness, disability disclosure, requesting accommodations, and goal planning.
 - ↳ **Youth Peer Mentoring** is an intensive self-advocacy training service that uses like-aged peers to help students learn how to self-advocate for services and supports in the community, social realm or employment arena, which they may need now or in the future. Mentors model and support the student in connecting activities until they learn to act independently.
 - **High School High Tech (HSHT)** is a collaborative partnership between VR, the Able Trust, and local school districts which exposes youth to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and other high demand careers, and often includes work experience. VR is making additional STEM exploration opportunities available through VR providers.

The Florida Vocational Rehabilitation program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal Fiscal year 2018, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$161,765,853. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$43,781,610) were funded by Florida State Appropriations.