Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
TRANSITION SERVICES

Jennifer Spring
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Transition Talks | 10/18/2022
Learning Targets

• Understand DVR’s Referral and Application process
• Learn about DVR’s Eligibility Criteria
• Discuss DVR’s transition services
• Share tools and best practices for successful student transition
• Address your questions about DVR transition service
What is DVR?

• The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is a state agency within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) that develops occupational talent of individuals with disabilities

• Funding is 78.7 percent federal, 21.3 percent state match

• **Mission**: To assist individuals with disabilities in obtaining, maintaining, or improving employment
Referral and Application Process

• High school students with a disability should apply to DVR at least two years before completing high school

• For those under 18 or those over 18 who are not their own guardian, the individual’s legal guardian must sign all documents

• Referral to apply can be done online, by mail, or in person
Who is eligible for DVR?

• To be eligible for DVR services you must have a documented medical or psychological disability that presents a barrier to employment and requires DVR services

• DVR staff will work with the applicant to:
  o Gather needed written documentation and information releases
  o Schedule a meeting to discuss the applicant’s disability and needs
  o Use existing information to the greatest extent possible (IEP, functional screen, previous medical records, etc.)
  o Refer the applicant for additional assessment if needed
What is Order of Selection (OOS)?

• OOS evaluates how a person’s disability affects seven different areas that relate to work:
  o Mobility
  o Communication
  o Self-care
  o Self-direction
  o Interpersonal skills/acceptance
  o Work tolerance
  o Work skills

• As required by federal law, DVR serves those with the most serious limitations due to disability first
What is an IPE?

• An IPE is an Individualized Plan for Employment – not to be confused with an IEP (Individualized Education Program)!

• DVR helps consumers develop a plan to find a job, keep a job, or get a better job.
Key Practices for Transition

• Invite DVR to IEPs or allow DVR to provide technical assistance for students with disabilities who are not DVR consumers but are considering applying for services in the future.

• Offer employment planning consultation through DVR, which can be provided for any student with a disability.

• Schedule and attend regular meetings with the high school.
Key Practices for Transition (cont.)

• Schedule a meeting with DVR, teachers, and other school staff at the start of the school year to provide updates about DVR and share all necessary contact information.

• Attend parent/teacher conferences, transition fairs, open houses, and similar events to provide DVR information.
Helpful Tools for Transition

• Coordinated transition services with schools and other partner agencies
  o Job exploration counseling
  o Work-based learning experiences
  o Counseling on comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational program enrollment opportunities
  o Work-based readiness training to develop social and independent living skills
  o Instruction on self-advocacy
Comparable Benefits

• Must look at other sources in the community before using DVR funds for services

• Examples:
  o Financial aid
  o Transit services
  o Libraries/Computer labs

• Cost sharing between agencies
End Goal: Integrated Employment

“Most integrated setting” is now defined as:

“...a setting that enables an individual to interact with persons without developmental disabilities to the fullest extent possible.”

(§46.279(1)(bm) Wisconsin Statutes; emphasis added.)
Successful Closure

• Once an individual has maintained employment for a minimum of 90 days, DVR will close file successfully.

• For consumers in supported or customized employment this 90-day timeframe begins following the transition to Long Term Support.

• Closures may allow others to come off waitlists.

• Consumers can reapply for services at any time.
DVR START Team

• START = Statewide Transition Action and Resource Team
  

• Transition Liaison List:
  
Questions?