

What to do now

► Discuss DRS services with your young adult special-education teacher or counselor to have them help you connect with the local DRS rehabilitation counselor. You can also contact DRS directly to begin the application process.

► Parents may request and suggest specific goals and objectives in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that include plans for transition from high school to college, training and work. You can request the assistance of a DRS counselor.

► Talk with your young adult about their interests and skills as well as possible careers. Help them research programs, matching their skills and interests. You can work with the school, DRS and other resources to access additional information and services.

► Understand that the Transition program is based on individual needs. Each youth's employment plan will be different. Eligible students will receive career counseling and guidance from their DRS counselors and can participate in a variety of employment readiness programs.



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

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DRS Pub. #24-06 Printed: May 2024
This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services. It is one of four brochures printed at a cost of \$2,945.86 for 20,000 total copies. This publication is available on the DRS website. DRS offices may request copies via iDRS. For additional copies, contact DRS Central Departmental Services at (405) 951-3400 or 800-845-8476 toll free.



OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation
Services

PARENTS
HANDBOOK

TRANSITION: School to Work



Your youth's path to
independence starts here



The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services helps people who have physical, visual or mental disabilities gain and maintain employment. DRS' statewide Transition program will put youth on a road to a bright future. We help students prepare for employment and life after high school. Types of services provided may include training, employment services and independent living training.



Plan it, achieve it

Transition is based on each person's strengths and needs. Each student's employment plan will be different. If eligible, a student will receive career counseling and guidance from a DRS counselor and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of employment readiness programs.



Parents' help is key

Parental involvement and support is critical, especially in the early part of the process. We want to work together to explore jobs and move your young adult toward greater independence after high school.

What does it cost?

- Rehabilitation services are paid for through a combination of state and federal dollars to help people with disabilities get jobs. Benefits may also be obtained from other public and private agencies. For young

adults, most services are provided at no charge. However, once the young adults leave high school, they may be required to pay some costs, depending on household income.

- Vocational counseling and guidance: A DRS counselor will assist a youth, their teachers and parents in developing career goals.
- Vocational assessment and evaluation: DRS may use vocational assessments and evaluations to help determine a youth's employment-related strengths and interests.
- School Work Study: A school may provide job readiness skills training through work experience at the school district or in the community. Such Work Study programs, where available, may allow your youth to earn a minimum wage and high school credits.
- Work adjustment training: Provides your youth with employment skills to help prepare for employment after high school.
- On-the-job training: Provides your youth with the opportunity to obtain employment in their career of choice with long-term employment as the goal.
- Supported employment: Your youth may learn skills in their senior year or after high school that will help them transition into permanent employment. Skills learned with the support from a job coach can include searching for employment, applying for a job, preparing for the interview, learning the job and working toward independence on the job.
- Independence support: Youth who are blind or have visual impairments may receive orientation and mobility training.