

TRANSITION: SCHOOL TO WORK

# DREAM BIG

Preparing the Next Generation



Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services



## Who are we?

■ The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is a state agency that helps people who have physical, visual or mental disabilities find employment in their community.

## What services can the DRS Transition: School-to-Work Program provide?

■ The transition program is based on individual needs, so each student's employment plan will be different. Eligible students will receive career counseling and guidance from their DRS counselors and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of employment readiness



## Is there a waiting list?

■ There may be times when there is a wait for services. The earlier you apply coupled with severity of your disability determines when services may begin. We begin service at the age of 16. So, get your applications in early!

# Transition: School-to-Work can help put the keys to your future in your hands.



## Think about this ...

- What career do you want?
- How can DRS help get you there?



## DRS has many programs than can help you including:



A summer work experience program for high school students interested in working in their communities.



This program provides a comprehensive set of employment readiness skills, financial literacy and networking for job leads.



This unique program provides internships in businesses to help youth with significant disabilities make successful transitions from school to work and adult life.



Technology transition class aimed at improving educational and employment outcomes for youth with disabilities through career awareness, preparation, simulation and entrepreneurial experiences.

## TRANSITION: SCHOOL TO WORK



# Students: Your Future, Your Life

- ✓ Transition: School to Work will put you on a road to a bright future.
- ✓ We are designed to address your individual needs and put you on a path to a career.
- ✓ We assist youth with physical, visual or mental disabilities to successfully move from high school to their next stages in life, which may include college, vocational training, employment, adult services, independent living training and community service.

## SOME QUICK ANSWERS:

- 1 When can I get help?**  
You can apply for services at age 15 1/2.
- 2 How do I know if I qualify?**  
Eligibility is determined on an individual basis by a rehabilitation counselor. It is based upon medical, psychological and/or educational testing information which determines if there is a barrier to employment.

**3 What can you do for me?**  
This program is based on individual needs, so each student's vocational plan will be different. Eligible young adults will receive career counseling and guidance and may be provided work experience through work study, work adjustment training and job placement. Supported employment may be provided in the second semester of their senior year.

# WE HELP YOU TAKE CONTROL

## DRS WILL...

- ✓ Work with you, your family, school staff, and others as a team to help you develop skills to be successful in employment.
- ✓ Continue to work with you to achieve your employment goal after high school. Additional services may be available to you depending on your individual needs. You must take an active role in reaching your employment goal.
- ✓ Keep your case open as long as you are an active participant in fulfilling your plan, making progress toward employment, and maintaining contact with your DRS counselor. Your case will remain open until you are employed for more than 90 days.
- ✓ After leaving high school, we may be able to help you obtain assistive technology and workplace accommodations, helping you succeed in a job.
- ✓ Help you get a job so that you can become independent, make your own decisions, and buy things you want.

## YOUR RESPONSIBILITY...

- ✓ Our goal is to help you become more independent through employment. Once you, your parents and your DRS counselor develop your employment plan, you are responsible for following it. You will need to keep in touch and focus on your career. Success is up to you.



***JOBS ARE OUT THERE.  
LET US HELP YOU PREPARE.***

# INDEPENDENCE

## TRANSITION: SCHOOL TO WORK

# Parents: You are Key to Success

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.

We partner with you to prepare your young adult for a time after high school when they will no longer have many of the supports



and services that are available in public school.

Young adults need to learn how to be self-sufficient and prepared to ask for support and accommodations. Let's work together to make this happen.

## SOME QUICK ANSWERS:

### 1 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 incomes.

### 2 How do we apply?

- \* The young adult must be at least 15 1/2 years old.
- \* School staff, families, physicians and others can refer students with disabilities to the Transition Program.
- \* Call 1-800-487-4042 to contact a DRS rehabilitation counselor for your part of the state.

# BUILDING YOUR CHILD'S FUTURE

## HOW YOU CAN HELP...

- ✓ Call the school district's special-education director, counselor and administrators to find who is responsible for Transition of young adults with disabilities and how to connect with the local DRS rehabilitation counselor.
- ✓ Parents may request and suggest specific goals and objectives in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) that include plans for transition from school to college, training and work.
- ✓ Talk with your young adult about interests and skills as well as possible careers. Help them research programs matching their skills and interests, and work with the school, DRS, and other resources to access additional information and services.
- ✓ Understand that the transition program is based on individual needs, so each young adult'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.



# We are here to help you reach your employment goals



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