



### Here is what you need to know:

- ▶ Youth can apply for services at age 15 1/2. School staff can refer students or contact DRS to start application process. Please remember a referral is not the same thing as making application. The student must fill out the DRS application to become a client of DRS and to receive services.
- ▶ Eligibility is determined on an individual basis. It is based on medical, psychological and/or educational testing information, which determines if there is a barrier to employment.
- ▶ Youth will receive career counseling and guidance and may be provided work experience through work study, work adjustment training, college education, job training and job placement. Supported employment may be provided in the second semester of the senior year or after they graduate.
- ▶ DRS will keep the case open as long as the youth is an active participant in fulfilling his/her plan, making progress toward employment and maintaining contact with a DRS counselor. The case will be closed after graduation and the student reaches his/her employment goals.
- ▶ After high school, DRS can help them obtain assistive technology and workplace accommodations, helping them succeed in a job.

**EMPOWERING OKLAHOMANS WITH DISABILITIES**



**We can help create  
a blueprint for a  
student's success.**

## **Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

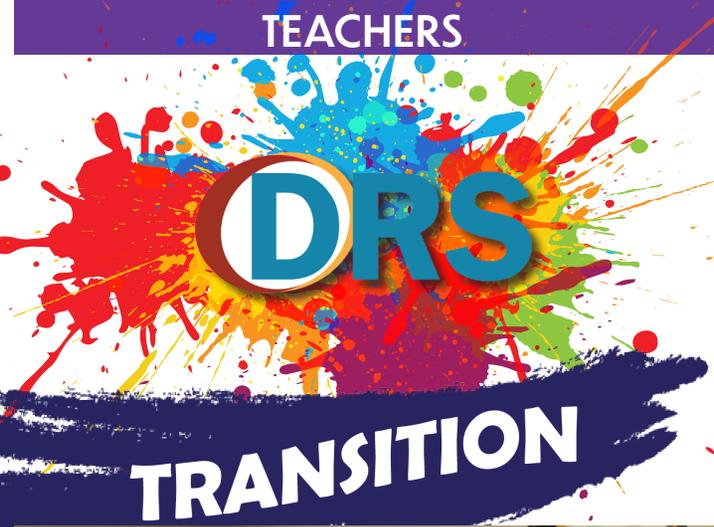
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DRS Pub. #19-03 Date: December 2019  
This publication is authorized by the Oklahoma Commission for Rehabilitation Services in accordance with state and federal regulations and printed by the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services at cost of \$1,452 for 15,000 copies (5,000 each of three versions). 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.



**School to work program  
helps students pursue  
career and independence**

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF  
REHABILITATION SERVICES**



## Youth must focus on future:

Once an employment plan is developed, the student is responsible for completing the plan and staying in contact with DRS.

## Who we are:

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.



## Goals + planning = success

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

## Possible Transition services available:

- **Vocational counseling and guidance:** A DRS counselor will assist a youth, his/her 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 youth to earn a minimum wage and high school credits.
- **Work adjustment training:** Provides youth with employment skills to help prepare for employment after high school.
- **On-the-job training:** Provides youth with the opportunity to obtain employment in his/her career of choice with long-term employment as the goal.
- **Supported employment:** Youth may learn skills in his/her senior year or after high school that will help them transition into permanent employment. These skills will be learned with support from a job coach to search for employment, apply for a job, prepare for the interview, learn the job and work toward independence on the job.

## Work focused

### Brian Bohn, Alva

Brian Bohn looks forward to each day he reports to work at Beadles Nursing Home. There, Bohn has many duties including helping keep the floors polished, and he is earning new responsibilities as he continues to grow into the job.

Bohn was born with a learning disorder, ADHD, Microcephaly and a speech disorder.

He applied to DRS for services and received vocational guidance and counseling, job read-



Brian Bohn, left, with his boss Dayna Jordan.

iness training and placement assistance, high school Transition services, specialized driver's training and supported employment. With DRS' help, he completed high school, got his driver's license and got the job at Beadles. Now, Bohn is thinking positively about his future, which he said he hopes will

For the latest on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, go to [doleta.gov/wioa](http://doleta.gov/wioa)

soon include a car. His boss, Dayna Jordan, co-owner of Beadles, said having Bohn as an employee has been a positive experience.

DRS can help youth paint a bright future.