

OVR: SCHOOL TO WORK QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What is School to Work Transition?

School to Work Transition serves as a bridge from school to work and adult life. It helps prepare youth and young adults with disabilities for life after high school.

When does it start and who should apply?

OVR may accept referrals of youth and young adults with disabilities at least two years prior to graduation, or earlier on a case by case basis when appropriate. Any youth or young adult with any type of disability who may need vocational counseling and guidance as well as assistance in preparing for, obtaining or maintaining competitive employment may apply for OVR services.

How do I become involved?

A youth or young adult with an IEP, 504 plan or a disability can refer themselves for vocational rehabilitation services. A parent/guardian/advocate or school personnel can also initiate the referral. Youth under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent/guardian to become involved with OVR services. A vocational counselor will review the referral and set up an interview to complete an application and determine if you meet the eligibility requirements.

What types of information are required for the application?

A comprehensive medical history detailing the disability and treatment(s) received, a list of medical providers and medications, educational history including: IEP's; psychological assessments; vocational assessments; interest, ability and aptitude testing; work experiences including volunteer work; paid and unpaid internships; apprenticeships, etc. A photo id is also required at the time of application.

How do I get services?

Vocational rehabilitation is an eligibility-based program. You must meet certain criteria to qualify for services. Your counselor will review the information and determine whether a disability exists and whether the disability substantially interferes with your ability to prepare for, get or keep a job. There must be a demonstrated need for OVR services in order for you to successfully pursue or retain employment.

The OVR Counselor determines if your disability significantly limits your functional capacities in the following areas: mobility, self-care, work tolerance, interpersonal skills, work skills, communication, and self-direction. Based upon the evaluation of your needs, the OVR Counselor will determine which services are needed and discuss the recommendations with you. OVR services may include Diagnostic Services, Vocational Evaluation, Counseling Services, Restorative Services, Training Services, Placement and other Support Services.

Is there a financial component?

Yes. The OVR Financial Needs Test determines the extent to which an eligible youth or young adult with disabilities and his/her family may be required to contribute toward the cost of certain OVR services. Diagnostic and evaluation services, vocational counseling and guidance, rehabilitative teaching, orientation and mobility training and job placement assistance are provided regardless of the student's and/or family's income.

How will I plan for employment?

The counselor meets with the youth or young adult with disabilities and prepares an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE is designed to meet the individual's unique vocational strengths and needs, interests and abilities. The IPE and the IEP should build on one another to help you to reach your goals after high school. The IPE will specify a vocational outcome as well as the services and service providers that will assist you to reach your specific vocational goal.

What happens when I leave school?

The OVR counselor will work with you to obtain and maintain competitive employment. This goal is achieved when you are working in a community-integrated setting earning at least minimum wage in a job that allows you to work with your unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests and informed choice. OVR services are complete when you achieve your vocational goal and are successfully employed for at least 90 days, after which your case is closed. If necessary, post-employment services may be available.



pennsylvania

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OVR's Mission

To assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities secure and maintain employment and independence