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# *How DVR and Schools Work Together for Youth*

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# Agenda

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- What is DVR and its process
- Transition legislation
- School/DVR collaboration
- Resources



# What is DVR?

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- The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides individualized services to people with disabilities who want to work
- Services include but are not limited to:
  - Vocational counseling
  - Skills development
  - Temporary work experiences
  - Supported employment
  - Education necessary to achieve career goals



# DVR Application and Referral

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- High school students should apply for DVR two years before exiting high school
- The DVR referral form can be found at:
  - <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/referral/>
- For applicants under age 18, or those over age 18 who are not their own guardian, the individual's legal guardian must sign all documents



# DVR Eligibility

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- Documented medical or psychological disability that presents a barrier to employment
- Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute (SVRI) Eligibility Service:
  - <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/policy-guidance/eligibility/svri-consumer-info.pdf>
- A DVR Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor makes final eligibility determination
- Orientation/initial meeting



# Categories in Order of Selection

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- **Category 1:** Most Significant Disability – limitations in four or more functional areas
- **Category 2:** Significant Disability – limitations in one, two, or three functional areas
- **Category 3:** Has a disability that does not seriously limit one or more functional areas

<https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/policy-guidance/eligibility/oos-category-description.pdf>



# IPE Development

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- An **IPE** is an Individualized Plan for Employment – not to be confused with an Individualized Education Plan (**IEP**)!
- DVR helps consumers to develop a plan to find a job, keep a job, or get a better job.
- Student job goals are not required to be specific – time to explore options.
- Students = Ages 14 to 21 in high school or an educational training program.



# Pre-Employment Transition Services

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## **Pre-ETS include:**

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Work Based Learning
3. Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational Programs
4. Workplace Readiness Training
5. Instruction on Self-Advocacy, which includes Peer Mentoring





# Supported/Customized Employment

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- Contracted Job Development service for in-depth job development in the community
- Based on the student's interests and abilities
- On-the-job supports provided by a job coach or natural supports based on the individual's needs
- Job must pay at least minimum wage and must meet the going rate for that job



# DVR Case Closure

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- DVR will close a case successfully once an individual has maintained competitive integrated employment for at least 90 days
- For consumers in Supported or Customized Employment, this 90-day timeframe begins once the transition to Long Term Support (LTS) has occurred
- DVR consumers can reapply for services at any time



# Transition Legislation

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## **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Action (WIOA) Title IV is Vocational Rehabilitation**

- Reauthorizes the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- Strong focus on transition/students
- Spending requirements for specific transition services
  - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
  - Potentially Eligible
- Section 511/Part 397 – Limitations on use of sub-minimum wage



# Helpful DVR Guidance

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## Wisconsin Transition Action Guide

- Supports the DVR, Department of Health Services (DHS) and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Interagency Agreement and outlines roles and responsibilities of Stakeholders
- Employment Planning Consultation
  - DVR information, Labor Market Information (LMI), Employment Training information
  - Can be done outside of an application to DVR
  - Attending IEP meetings for students not yet eligible or who have not applied



# Attending IEP Meetings

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- Explaining DVR program
- Offering input on post-school employment goal and needed services
- Sharing information on employment/training
- Providing LMI and community resources
  - Job Center of Wisconsin, ILC, DRC, etc.
- Disability information
  - Assistive technology, accommodations, etc.



# When do we get involved?

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## Two Years before High School Completion

- Earlier if necessary ~ Consult
- WIOA: Age range 14-21
- School IEP transition planning starts at age 14
- Academic and career planning for all students in 6th grade



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# DVR and School Collaboration

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## **How can DVR and Schools collaborate?**

- Work experiences (school and DVR)
- Job coaching for school work experiences
- Self-advocacy and Skills to Pay the Bills
- Summer work experiences



# Collaboration during COVID-19

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## How did DVR and Schools collaborate during COVID-19?

- Conference calls and virtual meetings
- Virtual job shadows
- Job exploration





# WIOA School Resources

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- Have You Heard About WIOA  
<https://www.witig.org/wioa-have-you-heard-about-wioa.html>
- PTP (Postsecondary Transition Plan) Information  
<https://dpi.wi.gov/sped/about/state-performance-plan/indicators/13-transition>
- Wisconsin Communities on Transition  
<https://www.witig.org/ccot-resources.html>
- Wisconsin PROMISE Resource Guide  
<https://promisewi.com/transition-guide/>
- Resources on provider virtual services  
<http://www.wintac.org/>



# General Resources

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- Job Accommodation Network (JAN)
  - <https://askjan.org/>
- Great Lakes ADA Center
  - <http://www.adagreatlakes.org/>
  - Toll Free: 800-949-4232 (Voice and TTY)
- DVR Referrals
  - <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/dvr/referral/>
- Job Center of Wisconsin
  - <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com>



# Questions?

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