



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Project 10 Winter Institute
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Presenters



Brandi Boyer Rutherford, M.S.
Transition Services Administrator
2505 W15th St., Ste. B
Panama City, FL 32401
850-872-4383

Brandi.BoyerRutherford@vr.fldoe.org



Jesse Riddle, M.S.
Transition Services Administrator
8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102
Leesburg, FL 34788
352-630-6197

Jesse.Riddle@vr.fldoe.org



Objectives

- Explain the purpose and components of WIOA as related to Students with Disabilities.
- Identify the 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- Demonstrate how to refer a student for Pre-ETS to VR.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (2014)

- Amended the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, effective July 2014.
- Defined 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- Added the classification Potentially Eligible to receive services.

Collaboration with Local Educational Agencies (LEA)

“LEAs (i.e., local schools) are obligated to provide transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). They are responsible for providing and paying for any transition service that is considered special education or related services necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education (FAPE), as required under IDEA.

Pre-employment transition services provided by VR agencies may not duplicate or supplant services that are already provided by local education agencies through the IDEA.”

[Pre-Employment Transition Services - NTACT:C \(transitionta.org\)](http://transitionta.org)



Federal Regulations

- [34 C.F.R. § 361.22\(c\)](#) Nothing in this part will be construed to reduce the obligation under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.](#)) of a local educational agency or any other agency to provide or pay for any transition services that are also considered special education or related services and that are necessary for ensuring a free appropriate public education to children with disabilities within the State involved.
- [34 C.F.R. § 300.324\(c\)\(2\)](#), prohibits VR agencies and other agencies from reducing LEA's obligations to provide transition services that may be considered special education and related services. VR and LEAs are not permitted to shift their responsibilities for providing services for which they are responsible.





Questions



Participating in Pre-ETS

WIOA defines “*Student With a Disability*” by the following criteria:

- 14-21 years of age,
- Enrolled in school and
 - (Secondary or Post-secondary Education)
- Has a documented disability.
 - (IEP, 504 plan, or other documentation)

Potentially Eligible

- Can only receive Pre-ETS
- No eligibility determination required

Traditional VR Services

- Can receive Pre-ETS at application
- Additional services provided at IPE

The Five Required Pre-Employment Transition Services

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Postsecondary Education Counseling
3. Work Readiness Training
4. Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE)
5. Self-Advocacy Training and Youth Peer Mentoring

Job Exploration Counseling



Discussion or counseling on job exploring options intended to foster motivation, consideration of opportunities and informed decision-making.

Postsecondary Education Counseling



Guidance and counseling includes instruction on:

- Assistance through Student Accessibility Office or Disability Support Services,
- Student financial aid opportunities, and
- Postsecondary options in the local community.

Work Readiness Training



20-hour course on employability and social skills

Examples of curriculum topics:

- Resume Writing
- Interviewing Skills
- Searching and applying for jobs online
- Identifying expectations and requirements at work
- Appropriate social behaviors in the workplace
- Handling conflict

Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE)



Work experiences in a community-based setting among individuals without disabilities.

- Conducted in a real work environment in the community.
- Driven by hands-on learning.
- Paid or unpaid.
- Require direct employer or community involvement to be successful.

Self-Advocacy Training

Helps students learn about their rights and responsibilities and to advocate for their needs in Self-Efficacy, Self-Determination, and Self-Awareness.

Self-Advocacy Curriculum contains instruction on:

- Americans with Disabilities Act,
- Learning one's rights and responsibilities,
- Self-Awareness and Self-Determination,
- Goal Setting, and
- Action Planning.

Youth Peer Mentoring



Intensive, time-limited self-advocacy training service, approximately 3-6 months

Leverages like-aged peers to engage youth by connecting them to long-term community resources such as:

- Disability-related community resources,
- Social networks, and
- Career-related networks.



Questions



How can students access VR's Pre-ETS?





Pre-ETS Referral Form – (District)

*Required Fields

Student Information

*Name: _____ SS#: _____
 *Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____ Disability Documentation: _____
 Race: _____ Ethnicity: _____
 *Home address: _____
 *City: _____ *Zip Code: _____ *County: _____
 *Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
 *Name of School: _____
 Parent/Guardian Information (if applicable) Name: _____
 Home Phone, if different from student: _____ Cell: _____
 Email: _____

*School Staff Making Referral

Name: _____ Position: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

Accommodations for initial meeting with VR Staff:

Do you require an American Sign Language interpreter? Yes
 Do you require an assistive listening device? Yes
 Do you require translated documents? Yes
 Do you require a foreign language interpreter? Yes
 Do you require any other accommodation for your impairment? Yes
 If yes, please explain: _____

*Transition Youth Services Requested (Check all that apply)

- Job Exploration Counseling (includes discussions on the student's vocational interests, the labor market, and identification of career pathways)
- Work Readiness Training (A 20 hour course that focuses on employability and work readiness skills)
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy (A course that teaches students how to speak up for themselves and make decisions about their own lives)
- Counseling on Enrollment Opportunities (provides an awareness of post-secondary career pathway options with job and career information)
- Work-Based Learning Experiences (includes hands on training for employability skills; may be paid or non-paid)

Student Acknowledgement

I understand that through Vocational Rehabilitation, I will be offered limited Pre-Employment Transition Services that can help me explore, prepare for, and make informed career-based decisions. I understand that I must be an active participant in the services I choose to achieve my transition goals.

 Signature of Student Date

Permission to Make Referral

By Signing this Pre-ETS Referral, I give _____ County Schools permission to submit this STAR Referral to VR. I understand I will be contacted by VR Staff to set up an initial meeting and acknowledge that my participation is required if my child is under 18 or if I am his/her Guardian.

Parent/Guardian/Age of Majority Student: _____

 Signature Date

Confirmation Statement

By Signing this Pre-ETS Referral, I confirm that the student has been identified by _____ County Schools as a student with a disability.

School Staff: _____

 Printed Name Position

 Signature Date

Name of SDR submitting the Pre-ETS Referral to VR: _____
 Phone # of SDR submitting the referral to VR (if different): _____

For Official VR Use Only (to be completed by VR Staff)
 VR Staff Name: _____ Area/Unit: _____
 Date referral received from SDR: _____
 Date entered into RIMS: _____

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an equal opportunity employer. It is against the law for VR as a recipient of Federal financial assistance to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief. The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. VR program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2021 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded were \$176,521,122. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs (\$47,775,094) were funded by Florida State Appropriations. Revised October 2022.





Changes and Additions in 2023

VR is transitioning the AWARE case management system which combines many separate applications such as:

- RIMS,
- STAR Portal, and
- eReferral/PERM.

New and redesigned Pre-ETS including a few new fee-for-service Pre-ETS!

- Postsecondary Education Counseling,
- Postsecondary Education Campus Tour,
- WBLE Informational Interview, and
- WBLE Job Shadowing /Workplace Tour.

Thank You

To learn more, call 800-451-4327 or
find an office near you by visiting RehabWorks.org.

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