

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 the 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 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 graduation.
- DRS will keep the case open as long as the youth is an active participant in fulfilling their plan, making progress toward employment and maintaining contact with a DRS counselor. The case will be closed after graduation and the student reaches their employment goals.
- After high school, DRS can help them obtain assistive technology and workplace accommodations, helping them succeed in a job.



OKLAHOMA Rehabilitation Services

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

3535 NW 58th Street, Suite 500

Oklahoma City, OK 73112

800.845.8476 Toll Free



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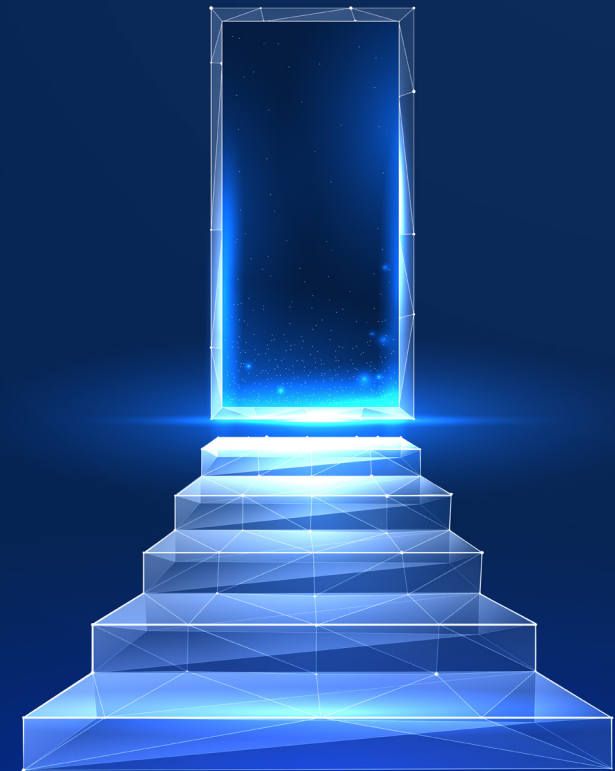
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OKLAHOMA
Rehabilitation
Services

TEACHERS
HANDBOOK

TRANSITION: School to Work



Youth's path to
independence starts here



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.



With a plan, they can succeed

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.



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.

Possible Transition services available:

- **Vocational counseling and guidance:** A DRS counselor will assist a youth, their 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 their career of choice with long-term employment as the goal.
- **Supported employment:** Youth may learn skills in their 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.

