



Vocational Rehabilitation Resources for Teens Transitioning into Adulthood

Transition into Adulthood

If a child is 16 or older, their Individual Education Plan (IEP) will include transition services that are intended to help them prepare to move from the world of school to adulthood. As part of transition planning, the IEP team will consider post-secondary education, vocational training or employment.

Often, the school's IEP team is joined by a vocational rehabilitation counselor from the state. By planning the transition process, teens will be prepared to move onto the next phase of their life and supports will be in place.

Every state has a federally funded agency that administers vocational rehabilitation (VR), and supported employment. VR assists people in finding jobs through local searches and by promoting self-employment and telecommuting opportunities. VR services vary widely depending on the state but typically include medical, psychological and vocational assessments; counseling and guidance; vocational and other types of training; interpreter and reader services; services to family members; rehabilitation technology; placement; post-employment services; and/or other goods and services necessary to achieve rehab objectives and secure employment. In some cases, VR may pay for transportation and vehicle modification.

The services are different in each state based on their funding. To find your state visit: http://www.workworld.org/wwwwebhelp/state_vocational_rehabilitation_vr_agencies.htm Virginia Commonwealth University's Work World site.

Source: Paralysis Resource Guide

Websites

Association of Higher Education and Disability: Moving Ahead—Transition Resources for Everyone

<http://www.ahead.org/students-parents>

Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Career Development and Transition

<http://www.dcdt.org/resources/>

Promotes career development and transition services for people with disabilities. See their list of resources.

George Washington University Disability Support Services (DSS)

<http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>

See their handbook for guidance counselors called **Guidance and Career Counselors' Toolkit: Advising High School Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options** at: <http://www.heath.gwu.edu/assets/33/toolkit.pdf>

Heath Resource Center at The National Youth Transitions Center: VR services-- Can they help you?

<http://www.heath.gwu.edu/modules/rehabilitation-services/>

Institute for Community Inclusion: Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities

http://www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=178

May apply to people with brain injuries or cerebral palsy.

Job Accommodation Network

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/>

for assistive technology and employment accommodations

Kids as Self Advocates and Family Voices: What is Vocational Rehabilitation?

<http://www.fvkasa.org/resources/files/work-voc-rehab.pdf>

National Center for Learning Disabilities: Transitions Considerations Checklist

<http://www.ncl.org/publications-a-more/checklists-worksheets-a-forms/transition-considerations-checklist>

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability: High School/High Tech (HS/HT) program, the *Guideposts for Success*, and NCWD/Youth

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info/>

National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR): Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About NIDRR

<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/osers/nidrr/faq.html>

NIDRR has funded 10 regional centers to provide information, training, and technical assistance to employers, people with disabilities, and other entities with responsibilities under the ADA. Each [Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center](#) (DBTAC) provides comprehensive resources on ADA issues in employment, public services, public accommodations, and communications.

National Instructional Materials Accountability Standards

<http://nimas.cast.org/>

The [NIMAS Center](#) maintains and updates the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS), which guides the production of alternate versions of textbooks and related instructional materials.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) web site on IDEA 2004

<http://idea.ed.gov>

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law ensuring services to children with disabilities throughout the nation. IDEA governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention, special education and related services to more than 6.5 million eligible infants, toddlers, children and youth with disabilities. Infants and toddlers with disabilities (birth-2) and their families receive early intervention services under IDEA Part C. Children and youth (ages 3-21) receive special education and related services under IDEA Part B.

PASS Plans

<http://www.passplan.org/>

A program administered by the Social Security Administration that allows a person with disabilities to set aside income or resources for a period of time to achieve a work goal.

Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)

<http://www.resna.org/>

Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA)

<http://rsa.ed.gov/>

RSA's mission is to provide leadership and resources to assist state and other agencies in providing vocational rehabilitation (VR), independent living (IL) and other services to individuals with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence and integration into the community and the competitive labor market. Please also see the Department of Education's "**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About RSA**"

<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/osers/rsa/faq.html>

Transition Coalition

<http://www.transitioncoalition.org/transition/>

provides online information, support, and professional development on topics related to the transition from school to adult life for youth with disabilities.

U.S. Department of Education: Auxiliary Aids and Services for Postsecondary Students with Disabilities

<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/auxaids.html>

U.S. Department of Education: Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education--Know Your Rights and Responsibilities

<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>

<http://www.ed.gov/ocr/transition.html>

U.S. Department of Education: Transition of Students with Disabilities to Postsecondary Education: A Guide for High School Educators
<http://www.ed.gov/print/about/offices/list/ocr/transitionguide.html>

U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration: Overview of the Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program Power Point Presentation
http://www.rcepv.siu.edu/oviewvr04_30_99.ppt

For more info on education for people with disabilities or employment for people with disabilities, please see the Reeve Foundation's factsheets on those topics. You may also want to see the Vocational Rehabilitation factsheet (for adults).

The information contained in this message is presented for the purpose of educating and informing you about paralysis and its effects. Nothing contained in this message should be construed nor is intended to be used for medical diagnosis or treatment. It should not be used in place of the advice of your physician or other qualified health care provider. Should you have any health care related questions, please call or see your physician or other qualified health care provider promptly. Always consult with your physician or other qualified health care provider before embarking on a new treatment, diet or fitness program. You should never disregard medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in this message.