



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NH VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
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Transition Planning for Youth with Disabilities The Role of NH Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR)

Frequently Asked Questions

NHVR is here for youth who...

- Have a disability that is making it difficult for them to get or continue to work
- Need specific services to obtain or maintain competitive, paid employment in their career path after high school
- Want to work to the best of their ability
- Are ready to make some good choices to get their life moving in the right direction

NHVR is not the place that youth are looking for if they...

- Don't have a disability
- Are being mandated to participate in services and don't want to
- Just want "a job" which is unrelated to their career goal

Who is eligible for NHVR services?

Individuals may be eligible for services based on three criteria:

- They have a disability
- Their disability creates substantial challenges in preparing for a job, getting a job, or keeping a job
- They require VR services to become employed or to stay employed

Who can refer youth to NHVR?

While anyone can initiate a referral by contacting the local VR office, a discussion involving the student, their family, school staff and VR counselor is highly encouraged prior to making the referral to determine if VR services are right for them.

At what point does NHVR become involved in the transition process?

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2008 (IDEA) states that transition planning begin no later than the first IEP that is in place by age 16, or younger if the student's transition team decides it's appropriate. As the student's transition team develops and implements the student's Transition Plan or 504 Plan, they should become informed about the role that VR can play. Students interested in VR services should be referred two (2) years prior to graduation or exit from school. It is encouraged that students be referred for services earlier if:

- They are at risk of dropping out of school or legal involvement, or
- They will require more extensive, long range planning due to disability needs

Please Note: Referring youth in a timely manner allows NHVR to have a greater ability to participate as an effective transition partner throughout the process. A student referral as a senior may not allow for the work that needs to be done in order to assure a smooth transition process.

What is the role of NHVR during transition planning?

- Participation in IEP or 504 meetings when invited. Particularly those that focus on **transition and employment**
 - When inviting the VR counselor to an IEP or 504 Plan meeting, to every extent possible, for scheduling purposes, invitations given with at least four to six weeks advance lead time are appreciated. School teams may wish to consider holding meetings during days where the VR counselor is already at the school for scheduled visits
- Provide technical assistance to youth and their transition team around issues related to employment and disability
- When youth are unsure of what they would like to do for work, their VR counselor can provide guidance and tools that will complement what the school provides in the development of a job goal and entry onto a career path
- To assist youth to identify their skills and supports they might need to enter into or continue their role in the workforce

What are some examples of services that youth might receive from NHVR?

VR does not take a “cookie cutter” approach to services. Someone may receive a service that others will not. The VR counselor will work with individuals to determine what services are specific to their needs.

- Career guidance counseling
- Counseling on the impact of disability on employment
- Job seeking skills development
- Job placement services following graduation or exit from high school
- Job keeping skills development
- Information and referral to appropriate community services who could play a role in the transition planning process
- College planning
- Providing information regarding classes which will support career pathways

What are some examples of resources that NHVR can provide to Schools?

- Career guidance information
- Current employment related, trends and activities occurring in the region
- Employer contacts
- Labor Law information
- Impact of disabling conditions on employment
- Connecting the student's work place activities with their academic program
- Employer expectations of employees

For more information regarding NHVR transition services, contact:

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Alternative formats available upon request

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