

A graduate of Good Shepard School in Barrington, Mike, had received support from NH Vocational Rehabilitation (NHVR) to obtain a job in retail, including exploration into retail management. When a management position did not become available, Mike with the support of NHVR and Community Partners, left retail and became an intern with NH Seacoast Project SEARCH at Portsmouth Regional Hospital.

Project SEARCH, is a full year school to work transition program which offers internships leading to competitive employment within healthcare and various other industries. After participating in two internships, one in radiology and the other in the Infusion Center, Mike applied for and accepted a position as an Operating Room Supply Chain Technician



at Portsmouth Regional Hospital. Mike held that position for over a year. He believes the learning process and on the job training played a huge role in helping him to become comfortable in his role. On a typical day, he picked materials for surgical cases, ordered supplies, stocked the material and sent emails to various people and departments.

Described by fellow co-workers as a good team player and always willing to help, Mike's former supervisor hired him over other candidates with more experience in the field. He noted that "Mike had proved that he could learn the job, and bring a fresh perspective on ways to make the department run better." The appreciation is mutual. Mike says, "My co-workers took a chance on me with having no experience in the field. They helped me along the way."

In addition to his Operating Room responsibilities, Mike took great pride in learning to use the Hospital's computer system. He states that, "the most challenging part of the job was ordering and planning things out ahead of time as you never know when supplies will be needed for an emergency surgical case."

Mike shares that, "the job itself can be stressful because it is high pace and we are dealing with people's lives." Since moving on from the Hospital, Mike is taking classes for Health Information Technology and is pursuing certification for medical billing and coding. He is hopeful that this will lead to more success in his career. He says, "My future goals are to have a stable career in this field, get my own apartment and be financially stable."

NH Vocational Rehabilitation Regional Offices

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21 South Fruit Street, Suite 20
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Website Address:
<http://www.education.nh.gov/career/vocational>

For further information, please call the office nearest you.

Office hours: 8:00 - 4:30, Monday-Friday

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WHAT IS NEXT FOR YOU?



Build Your Future

For High School Students with
Disabilities and their Families

A guide to services available through
NH Vocational Rehabilitation

 **New Hampshire**
N.H.V.R. Vocational Rehabilitation
New Hampshire Department of Education

What students and parents can expect from NH Vocational Rehabilitation

NHVR counselors throughout NH are helping students with disabilities get ready to make the transition from high school to training, higher education, or employment. NHVR counselors work with students to assist them in making choices for the future, by arranging for career assessments, placing them in internships and job shadows, as well as providing necessary assistive technology services. NHVR works collaboratively with students, families and schools to create individualized plans for students.

NHVR believes that students with disabilities can make good choices about their lives, and can make a difference in their world. We believe that young adults with disabilities should live and work alongside people who do not have disabilities. Our programs will give students with disabilities the specialized help they need to take their place in the world!



Programs and Services for Eligible Students

- Career decision making, counseling and referral-NHVR counselors are skilled in helping students explore options about jobs and the needed training to get those jobs
- Vocational training-Many job training programs are available. Using financial guidelines, NHVR may help pay for books, tools, materials, college or technical training.
- Job search, placement, and job seeking services-NHVR counselors help develop job seeking skills or may refer students to other agencies that provide these services. Follow up is provided for at least 90 days after the job begins.
- Assistive technology-NHVR is a leader in technology services that help a person get or keep a job. Worksite accommodations include adapted computers and workstations, and mobility aides.
- Supported employment/job coaching-NHVR may provide funding for job coaching services. Job coaches teach work skills and behaviors, often at the worksite.
- Medical rehabilitation services- NHVR may supply certain medical services such as short term counseling, visual aids, hearing aids, and prosthetics
- Other support services-assistance may also be available for transportation, maintenance, and personal assistance services

What Happens in a Vocational Rehabilitation program?

NHVR counselors work with the student's teachers, parents or guardian or others who can help the student plan for the future.

The counselor will:

- Determine if the student is eligible.
- Provide career guidance, counseling and assessment to help identify the student's interests and abilities.
- Help to develop and write the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), an outline that describes what steps are needed to reach employment. This is coordinated with the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and transition goals as much as possible.
- Provide employment related services the student may need while in high school.
- Determine if there are any additional services that the student needs after high school, and work collaboratively with the family and other agencies to determine which agency or organization can best meet the students' needs.
- Help students find a job that matches their interests, preferences, and strengths.
- NHVR uses "Community Rehabilitation Providers" to support students in the community in job shadows, internships, and other employment related activities.



Eligibility for NHVR Services

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires that applicants meet certain requirements. Students with a wide variety of physical, emotional, cognitive, and learning disabilities may qualify for services.

A student must:

- Have a physical or mental impairment.
- The impairment must be a substantial impediment to getting and maintaining employment
- Be able to benefit from rehabilitative services

(Students who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) are presumed eligible.)

More Details about the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)

The IPE helps guide the student toward employment and independent living goals.

Once found eligible, the NHVR counselor, student, and family if necessary, work together and discuss the student's interests, strengths, and goals. Reports are reviewed from schools and doctors, including the IEP and transition plan for students in special education.

Then, the counselor and student create the IPE. The IPE must be in place prior to the student's exit from high school. It includes:

- The employment goal and the services needed to reach that goal
- Who will provide and pay for services.
- How the services will be evaluated.
- When employment is expected to occur.

The IPE is reviewed yearly (or more often if necessary) and updated as needed.