The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR):
Mission, Services, and Eligibility

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Why Do I Need OVR?

so why am i HERE?
1. Transition – Life after High School
2. Transition Myths
3. OVR Mission, Services, Eligibility
4. What Can I Do Now?
“A bridge between the security and structure offered by the school and the opportunities and risks of adult life.”
Transition is Important!

To be successful... We need a PLAN!!
Adult System Realities

• Entitlement vs. Eligibility
• Accommodations vs. Modifications
• Family Contribution to Services
• Waiver Availability
• Waiting Lists and Limited Funding
• Limited Duration of Services
• Self Disclosure of Disability

GET ON THE WAITING LIST!
Transition Myths
Transition Myths

Your student does not need to attend their IEP meetings.

True? False?
You want your child to attend a sheltered workshop after graduation. They can attend without other support or assistance. **False**
Your student will have an IEP when they go to college or trade school.

True? False?
Your student’s learning disability was diagnosed in 2nd grade. A college will be able to use this testing.

True? [False?]
Your student has unlimited time on tests, rephrased test questions, test re-takes, and word banks in high school. They will have the same in college.

True? False?
Your student will automatically be signed up for employment services after graduation.

True? False?
Transition Myths

My student qualifies for services, so they will definitely receive them.

True? | False?
Transition Planning at IEP Meetings

Who needs to attend?

- Student
- Parents/Guardians
- Special Education Teacher
- Related Service Personnel (Speech, OT, PT)
- Transition Coordinator
- Regular Education Teacher
- School District Representative
- Career Tech Representative
- Community Agency Personnel
What are the Steps in Transition?

**PLANNING**
- Family Engagement
- School-Based
- Work-Based
- Community-Based
- Preferences
- Interests
- Goals/Outcomes
- Expectations
- Priorities

• **Handout** - Planning for the Future Checklist

**PREPARATION**
- Home-Based
- School-Based
- Work-Based

**LINKAGE**
- OVR
  - Community Service Agencies
  - Postsecondary Education
  - Employers
  - Independent Living
  - Public Services

**EXIT**
- Employment
- Postsecondary Education
- Independent Living
- Community Access
- Participation
- Socialization
- Friendship
- Sexuality

Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry
Agency Linkages

Community Agencies

- Abilities in Motion (AIM)
- BARTA/Red Rose Transportation
- Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services
- CareerLink
- Office of the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing
- Service Access and Management, Inc.
- Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Dept. of Human Services/Social Security
Questions to discuss with your child...

✓ Will your child go on to postsecondary education?
✓ Where will your adult child be employed, doing what, and with what kind of support?
✓ Where will your adult child be living, for how long, and with what kind of support?
✓ How will your adult child get around the community?
✓ What kinds of adult leisure and recreation activities will your child be doing?
✓ Will your child have a boyfriend/girlfriend?
✓ What kind of support will they need?
What is your Disability?

What do we mean by disability?

- Physical
- Sensory
- Health-Related
- Emotional
- Cognitive

IEP
Or
504 Plan
Is my Daughter/Son Eligible for OVR services?

OVR looks for **Functional Limitations** in these areas:

- Mobility
- Self-Care
- Work-Tolerance
- Interpersonal Skills
- Communication
- Work Skills
- Self-Direction
New OVR Services for Students:

➢ Group Trainings/Workshops  ➢ Do not need to apply to OVR!
  ➢ Independent Living, Self Advocacy, Workplace Readiness

➢ Individual Services
  ➢ Job Shadowing – up to 25 hours  ➢ need to apply to OVR!
  ➢ Work Based Learning Experiences – up to 90 hours
    ➢ A paid part-time work experience
OVR Services for HS Students:

➢ Travel Training
  ➢ Assess your ability to Travel independently
  ➢ Instruction in how to utilize public transportation - BARTA, Taxi services, Uber app and Lyft app

➢ Dual Enrollment Credits
  ➢ Financial support for a college-level course while enrolled in High School.
  ➢ OVR may fund: tuition, books, supplies needed
  ➢ Course may be at college or online
OVR Services Include:

- **Testing**
  - Medical, psychological, neuropsychological, audiological, physiatric
  - Vocational evaluations
- **Vocational Counseling and Guidance**
- **Job Coaching**
OVR Services Include:

- **Restoration Equipment/Assistive Technology** – hearing aids, wheelchairs, home and van modifications, physical and occupational therapies

- **Training**
  - This can include: Tuition, Books, On the Job Training, Driver Evaluations/Driver Training

- **Work tools, Equipment, and Uniforms**
OVR Services Include:

➢ Job Placement Assistance
➢ Hiram G. Andrews Center-Business, Trade and Technical school that provides many types of vocational evaluations and training
➢ Post Employment Services
Special Programs

SWEAP

Summer Work Experience and Assessment Program
What is SWEAP?

Summer Work Experience and Assessment Program

- A 6-7 week paid summer employment work experience
- For Youth with Disabilities age 16-21.
- Students work 3 days per week
- Students work up to 20 hours per week.
What happens in 8th, 9th, and 10th grade?

- OVR information is provided at an IEP meeting
- OVR presents information to students/parents (Group presentations, exhibit at school event)
- OVR/School/Provider Coordinate Group Trainings and Workshops

- Coordinate Group Trainings/Workshops
  - Independent Living Skills
  - Self Advocacy
  - Workplace Readiness

- Students participating in a Group Training/Workshop must be at least 14 years old
What happens in 11th and 12th grade?

• Continued involvement from Parents and IEP team throughout OVR process

Submit an OVR application

Initial Interview with OVR Counselor

Counselor Determines Eligibility

Individual Pre-Employment Transition Services

• Individual Pre-Employment Transition Services:
  • Job Shadowing
  • Work Based Learning Experiences

• Travel Training
• Driver Training
• Dual Enrollment Credits
When and How should I apply for services?

• 2 Years Before Graduation
  • Contact Your school’s Transition Coordinator
  • Complete/Submit an OVR Application
The OVR Application

✓ Identifying Information
✓ Demographics
✓ Photo Identification
✓ Educational History
✓ Detailed Work History/Current Employer
✓ Military record
✓ Household Income and Composition
✓ Current Services
✓ Disability Information
✓ Career Interest
✓ Criminal History
✓ D&A History
✓ Transportation
✓ Medical History (detailed)
✓ Awareness of Barriers/Challenges related to Work

The app is 9 pages!!

You will need to know your Social Security Number and Health Insurance information.
How can I help my child be ready for work?
Know Your Interests!

Take An Interest Survey:

1. onetonline.org – My Next Move
2. pacareerzone.org – Explore – Assess Yourself
Learn More About A Career By:

Volunteering
Job Shadowing
Interviewing a Professional
Help Them Memorize

Personal Information:

Know When to Share It!

*Social Security Number*

Date of Birth

Address
Get an ID

Get a State ID or Drivers License:
Social Media

Over 77% of employers search for you on social media before inviting you to an interview!

See what comes up!

- Would you want your boss to see this?
- Would you want a college interviewer to see this?
Practice Completing a Job Application

Develop a Resume

HARRY JAMES POTTER

Objective
To utilize my combat skills, gained during fighting evil forces throughout my life, to promote justice and keep evil in check by becoming an Auror.

Education
Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry - Ordinary Wizarding Levels, 1996 - 1 O, 4 E, 2 A

Relevant Experience
- Defeated Voldemort when I was about 1 year old
- Stopped Voldemort from acquiring Sorcerer's Stone in first year at Hogwarts
- Killed a Basilisk with Gryffindor's sword in second year at Hogwarts
- Killed Voldemort's memory in a diary with a Basilisk's fang
- Fought a hundred dementors alone protecting lives of myself along with several others
- First one to fight Voldemort after his return to a human form in the graveyard. Successfully retrieved dead body of Cedric Diggory from the clutches of Death Eaters and Voldemort himself
- Retrieved the prophecy from the Department of Mysteries before it could fall into wrong hands. Fought with Death Eaters' leading fellow members of DA
- Assisted Albus Dumbledore, Principal Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, in finding the truth about Horcruxes and destroying them
- Found and Destroyed Horcruxes including part of Voldemort's soul residing inside my body, by taking a killing curse to the chest
- Successfully ended Voldemort and his Death Eaters for almost ten years
- Defended Hogwarts against Voldemort's and Death Eater's attack
- Was the one on one duel against Voldemort and destroyed him for good

Achievements
- Possessor of the Deathly Hallows
- Youngest wizard to win the Triwizard Tournament
- Youngest wizard to use a cursed Parselmouth Charm
- Youngest Seeker in about a century
- Recovered Sorcerer's Stone and prevented Voldemort from using it
- Discovered Chamber of Secrets
- Have been presented the sword of Gryffindor by the sorting hat
- Played significant role in Gryffindor's House victory in the House Championship throughout my stay in Hogwarts

Extracurricular Activities
Berks County Transition Coordinating Council

- Meets 5 times throughout the school year to improve transition services for youth.
- Composed of:
  - Community Agency Representatives
  - Community Service Providers
  - Education Representatives (Transition Coordinators, IU staff)
  - Parents
  - Youth with Disabilities
- [http://www.berkstransition.org/](http://www.berkstransition.org/)
Additional Resources

Transition Planning:
- www.secondarytransition.org
- www.imdetermined.org
- www.gettingthemthere.com

Employment Planning:
- www.jobgateway.pa.gov
- www.onetonline.org
- www.careerzone.org
- www.pacareercoach.pa.gov
- www.paworkstats.pa.gov
- http://askjan.org/

Self Advocacy:
- www.pyln.org

Parents:
- www.pealcenter.org
- www.berkstransition.org
- www.autismsocietyofberks.org
- www.paautism.org
- Disabilities.temple.edu/atlend

Volunteering Opportunities:
- www.volunteermatch.org
- www.uwberks.org
- www.pointsoflight.org

Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide
O*NET OnLine
Connect with OVR Before Graduation!
Any Questions?
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