

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Transition and Youth Services *An Overview of ACCES-VR Services*



Introductions



ACCES-VR

- An office within the New York State Education Department
- 15 district offices and 10 satellite offices

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>



ACCES-VR: Purpose and Process



- ACCES-VR's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to go to WORK.
- ACCES-VR is an ELIGIBILITY based program, *not an entitlement program*. Individuals must qualify to receive services.



Students and Youth With a Disability

- **Student with a Disability:**
 - Ages 14–21
 - Has a documented disability
 - *Is enrolled in an educational or training program*
- **Youth with a Disability:**
 - Ages 14–25
 - Has a documented disability



Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

ACCES-VR provides a variety of services to assist students with disabilities to identify, prepare for, and pursue their career goals. These services include:

- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities *who are potentially eligible* for ACCES-VR services
- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities *who are determined eligible* for ACCES-VR services
- VR services needed for an individual to obtain, maintain, or advance in a job for students *who are determined eligible*

Pre-ETS

- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities provide information on career options, education and skills training for students ages 14–21 who are **potentially eligible** or **eligible** for ACCES-VR services.
- Pre-ETS align with evidence-based predictors of postsecondary success.
- The goal of Pre-ETS is to help students with disabilities achieve an early, solid foundation that will lead them to successful competitive integrated employment and independence.

The Five Pre-ETS

**Job
Exploration
Counseling**

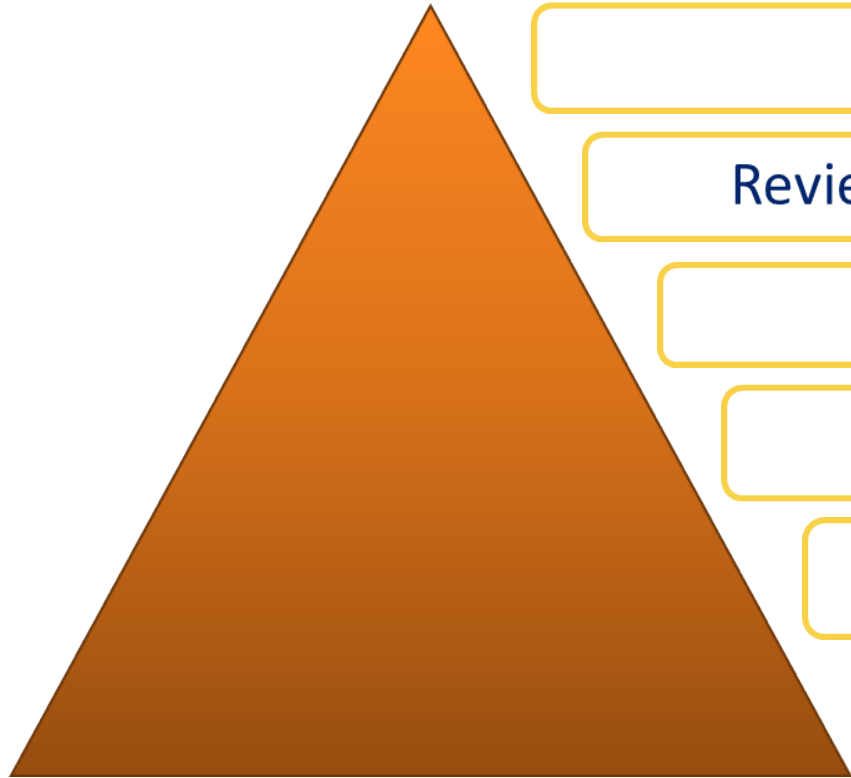
**Work-Based
Learning
Experiences
(WBLEs)**

**Counseling on
Opportunities
for Enrollment
in
Postsecondary
Education**

**Workplace
Readiness
Training**

**Instruction in
Self-Advocacy
Counseling**

Job Exploration Counseling Activities



Vocational interest inventories

Review vocational inventory results with a professional

Learn about labor market information

Learn about in-demand industries and occupations

Learn about non-traditional employment options

Identification of possible career pathways of interest

Discussion or counseling on the results of some of these activities can help to identify viable career options or solidify careers that a student will want to explore further.

Work-Based Learning Experience (WBLE)

- Job shadowing
- Career mentorship
- Paid and non-paid internships
- Informational interviews
- Practicum
- Service learning
- Student-led enterprises
- Career-related competitions
- Simulated workplace experience
- Paid work experience
- Non-paid work experience
- Volunteering
- Workplace tours/field trips

Counseling on Postsecondary Options

The formal name of this service is:

- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs
- Student exploration and planning on a variety of postsecondary education and training opportunities



Instruction in Self-Advocacy

- Self-awareness
- Understanding of disability
- Disability disclosure
- Decision making
- Goal setting
- Evaluating options
- Identifying independence
- Reasonable accommodations
- Request and utilize accommodations
- Knowing your rights and responsibilities
- Self-determination
- Know how to request and accept help
- Intrinsic motivation
- Taking a leadership role
- Support plans
- Assertiveness
- Listening to other's opinions
- Problem solving
- Monitoring progress
- Positive self-talk

Students Potentially Eligible and Eligible for ACCES-VR



**Potentially Eligible
Students:**

May receive Pre-ETS

Eligible Students:

May receive Pre-ETS **AND/OR**
may receive VR services
needed to obtain a job

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- High school-to-work transition services
- Job counseling
- Job assessment and development
- Job placement
- Vocational or technical training
- BOCES or other classroom training
- Books and tools
- Supported employment
- Occupational license
- Vehicle modifications
- Self-employment
- Rehabilitation technology
- Job coaching
- College training
- Driver training
- And many more!

Being eligible for ACCES-VR services does not mean individuals are eligible to receive *ALL* ACCES-VR services.

Services for ACCES-VR Eligible Individuals

Pre-ETS

- Only for students with a disability ages 14–21
- Services:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-Based Learning Experiences
 - Counseling on postsecondary education options
 - Workplace readiness training
 - Instruction in self-advocacy

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Required to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment
- Secondary school examples: Vocational guidance and counseling, community work experiences, assessment for career planning
- Postsecondary examples: Job development, supported employment, training (vocational, college)

Referral Process



Referral to ACCES-VR vendor: Potentially eligible student (Pre-ETS ONLY)

- Students with a disability (14–21) enrolled in an educational program
- Would benefit from intro to pre-employment supports and group activities
- May not be appropriate for ACCES-VR services **or** not yet ready for VR services

Referral to ACCES-VR: Eligible student

- Students with a disability that may need more than Pre-ETS (e.g., VR services)
- **Students with a disability who are interested in identifying a career goal and accessing services required to achieve that goal and obtain a job**
- Students with a disability ready for more in-depth VR services

Sub-Minimum Wage Employment

Before a student with a disability is referred to a program or begins employment where the pay is less than minimum wage, please keep the following in mind:

- Federal legislation and regulations require that youth with disabilities are **provided information and choice about work in competitive integrated employment settings that pay at least minimum wage.**
- Historically, people with disabilities have not been provided enough information or opportunities to make an informed choice between a job that pays at least minimum wage and one that pays less than minimum wage.
- **Choice is not possible without knowing options exist.**

Federal Regulatory Requirements

Prior to employment at sub-minimum wage, youth (age 24 and under) must have:

1. Received Pre-ETS and/or transition services
2. Applied for ACCES-VR services
 - a) And were found ineligible **OR**
 - b) Were found eligible **AND** had an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) **AND** worked toward an IPE work goal for a reasonable amount of time without success **AND** the case was closed
3. Received Career Counseling and Information and Referral services (CC&I&R)

Responsibility for Subminimum Wage Regulations

- Programs that pay subminimum wage are responsible for:
 - Ensuring that individuals applying are aware of all the required regulatory requirements **prior to** employment. They must verify these requirements and keep documentation.
 - Following any state oversight entity requirements (e.g., Office of People with Developmental Disabilities [OPWDD], Office of Mental Health [OMH]).
- ACCES-VR is responsible for using a consistent eligibility determination process for all applications this:
 - Ensures equity in the determination of eligibility for VR services.
 - Provides information to all individuals about VR services available to support competitive integrated employment.
 - Use a trial work experience is needed to determine the individual's eligibility.

ACCES-VR Application and Eligibility Determination: Required Documents

Student, family, or school district

- ACCES-VR Application (VR-04)
- Consent to Release/Obtain Information Form (VR-21)
- Documentation of Disability
- <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services>

Resources

ACCES-VR: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>

ACCES VR District Offices: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>

[Apply for VR Services: http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services)

NTACT:C: <https://www.transitionta.org/>