



Vocational Rehabilitation Services for High School Students

What are vocational rehabilitation (VR) services?

VR services are offered by the SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD) and the SC Commission for the Blind (SCCB). VR services help you prepare for, find, and keep a job. VR services can also help you return to work or grow in your job.

What are pre-employment transition services?

Pre-employment transition services are when a VR counselor works with high school students to help them prepare for work. You do not need to apply for these services. Here is a list of these services:

Service: job exploration counseling

Skills learned: discuss career options and learn about in-demand jobs

Service: work-based learning experiences

Skills learned: experience and gain knowledge about the workplace

Service: counseling on postsecondary education

Skills learned: explore education and training options available after graduation

Service: workplace readiness training

Skills learned: improve social and independent living skills

Service: introduction to self-advocacy

Skills learned: learn how to speak up for yourself

Who is able to get pre-employment transition services?

You may receive these services if you are a student who is at least 13 years old, and

- Have an IEP (Individual Education Program) for special education, or
- Have a "504 Plan" (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act) with disability accommodations in a regular education classroom, or

- Have any disability that significantly affects a major life activity like learning, walking, seeing, or caring of yourself; this includes students with disabilities who are homeschooled.

How do I get pre-employment transition services?

To receive pre-employment services, you may contact a special education teacher, your school district's Transition Coordinator, or your local SCVRD or SCCB office. You can find your SCVRD office at <https://scvrd.net/offices/> and your SCCB office at <http://www.sccb.state.sc.us/contact.php>.

In addition to pre-employment transition services, students may also apply for other VR services at the age of 16. VR services work with pre-employment transition services to prepare students for a smooth shift to work or college. VR services include:

Service: benefits counseling

Skills learned: learn about work incentives that allow you to keep your benefits while you try to work.

Service: physical care and support

Skills learned: correct or modify physical impairments.

Service: counseling and guidance

Skills learned: learn coping skills and decision-making skills.

Service: non-degree training

Skills learned: learn job skills while on the job without getting a degree.

Service: job preparedness training

Skills learned: classroom or one-on-one instruction on how to prepare for a job and keep it.

Service: post-secondary training

Skills learned: VR services can assist you when you need more education to get a job.

Service: rehabilitation technology services

Skills learned: help you overcome physical barriers through the use of technology. Examples are making modifications to your car or home, driver training, computer access services, and mobility/seating services.

Additional resources:

- Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center:
<http://www.wintac.org/topic-areas/pre-employment-transition-services>

- South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department:
<https://scvrd.net/youth-services/>
- South Carolina Commission for the Blind: <http://www.sccb.state.sc.us/>
- Disability Rights South Carolina’s fact sheet—Education for Children with Disabilities: www.disabilityrightssc.org
- Disability Rights SC’s fact sheet—Transition Services:
www.disabilityrightssc.org

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