

# A Review of OVR's Transition Services

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Virtual Transition Conference

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To assist Pennsylvanians with **disabilities**  
to secure and maintain  
**employment** and independence.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

- Early Reach Initiative
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Diagnostic Services
- Vocational Evaluation
- Counseling and Guidance
- Transition Services
- Restoration Services
- Training Services
- Vehicle/Home Modification
- Placement Services

## **Additional Blindness and Visual Services**

- Blindness Skills Training
- Instruction: Mobility
- Instruction: Daily Living
- Independent Living Skills
- Specialized Children's Services
- Randolph-Sheppard Business Enterprise Program (BEP)

## Western Region

- DuBois
- Erie (+ BBVS)
- New Castle
- Pittsburgh (+ BBVS)
- Washington

**Beth Ann Fanning**

## Central Region

- Altoona (+ BBVS)
- Harrisburg (+ BBVS)
- *Hiram G. Andrews Center (HGAC)*
- Johnstown
- Williamsport
- York

**Melissa Wert-Thrush**

## Eastern Region

- Allentown
- Norristown
- Philadelphia (+ BBVS)
- Reading
- Wilkes-Barre (+ BBVS)

**Kaitlin Salvati**

Information in this session focuses on  
**STATEWIDE** services.

After participating in this session participants will be able to:

- Define Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and Transition Services and explain the differences.
- Detail modes of service delivery.
- Explain the eligibility process for students and youth.

# Pre-ETS Definition and Review

Review the 5 Required Pre-Employment Transition Services



Pre-ETS are services that help students with disabilities learn about themselves, understand work requirements, practice work skills, choose a career, and explore training options.

## The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA):

- amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- requires vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to set aside at least 15% of their federal funds to provide "pre-employment transition services" to "Students with Disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services ."

## Who is a Student with a Disability?

An individual with a disability in a secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program who is:

- not younger than the earliest age for the provision of transition services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act unless the state elects a lower minimum age for receipt of pre-employment services (age 14 in PA)
- not older than 21; unless the individual state law provides for a higher maximum age for receipt of services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- eligible for, and receiving, special education or related services under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or
- is an individual with a disability, for purposes of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act

**Potentially Eligible**: Student with a disability who wants to work and has barriers to employment, but has not yet submitted an OVR application for individualized case services and gone through the eligibility process.

**Eligible**: Student with a disability who has submitted an OVR application for individualized case services, has been assigned a counselor (VRC), has gone through the eligibility process and has been deemed eligible by their OVR counselor.

## What are the 5 required Pre-Employment Transition Services?

- Self-Advocacy Instruction
- Counseling On Postsecondary Options
- Job Exploration Counseling
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Work Based Learning

## Pre-Employment Transition Services are for students:

- Between the ages of 14-21
- Enrolled in secondary or post-secondary education
- Have an IEP, 504 Plan, or identify themselves as a student with a disability

- **Self-Advocacy Instruction** helps students with disabilities build skills to solve problems and communicate their own needs and interests.
- Topics may include: Disability Awareness/Disclosure, Relationships and Boundaries, Decision Making, Setting Goals, Self-Care and Wellness, Self-Advocacy/Determination, Accommodations and/or Assistive Technology, and Student-Led IEP and Transition.

- **Counseling on Postsecondary Options** helps students with disabilities decide if college or training after high school is right for them.
- Topics may include: Postsecondary Training Options, Financial Aid and/or FASFA, Academic Accommodations, Learning Style and Study Skills, College Resources, Difference Between High School and College, College Events, and College Applications.



- **Job Exploration Counseling** helps students with disabilities learn about jobs and pick a career.
- Topics may include: Career Overviews and Pathways, In-Demand Careers, Vocational Interest Inventories, Non-Traditional Employment, Labor Market Information, Employment Requirements, Job Fair Facilitation, Information Interviews, and Career Speakers.

- **Workplace Readiness Training** teaches students with disabilities how to get and keep a job.
- Topics may include: Applications and Interviews, Problem Solving, Time Management and Organization, Communication Skills, Teamwork, Basic Computer Skills, Professionalism and Hygiene, and Networking, Budgeting/Finances, Daily Living Skills, Photo ID and Records, Safety (Including Internet Usage), Navigating Social Services, Transportation Methods, Group Travel Training and Benefits Counseling.

- **Work-Based Learning** uses community workplaces to provide students with disabilities the knowledge and skills that will help them connect school experiences to real-life work activities and future career opportunities.
- Examples include: Project SEARCH, job shadowing, and paid work experiences.

Group Pre-ETS involve direct instruction and/or supervision at a worksite for two or more students at a time and include the following subject areas:

Self-Advocacy

Independent Living Skills

Workplace Readiness

Job Exploration

Counseling on Post Secondary Options (OVR staff only)

\*Travel Training

\*Job Shadowing

\*These services may not be provided virtually

Individual Pre-ETS are available for students with disabilities who have at least applied for OVR services and include the following provider-based services:

- Job Shadowing
- Paid Work Experience
- Community Work Instruction

\* All of the above plus any of the 5-required Pre-ETS (listed on slide 12) can be provided individually by OVR staff.

According to the Rehabilitation Act as amended by WIOA and similar to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), *Transition Services* means a coordinated set of activities for a student that:

- are designed within an outcome-oriented process, that promotes movement from school to post school activities, including:
  - postsecondary education,
  - vocational training,
  - competitive integrated employment (including supported employment),
  - continuing and adult education,
  - adult services, independent living, and/or community participation.
- are based upon the individual youth or young adult with a disability's needs, taking into account preferences and interests,
- must include instruction, community experiences, the development of competitive integrated employment and other post school adult living objectives, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

Transition services must promote or facilitate the achievement of the competitive integrated employment outcome identified in the youth or young adult with a disability's Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

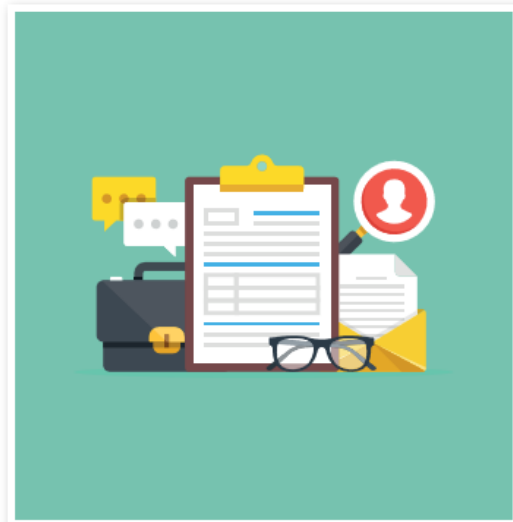
# Pre-ETS vs. Transition Services

<b>Pre-ETS</b>	<b>VR Transition Services</b>
Exploratory	Goal Oriented
Introductory and time limited	Ongoing
Generalized	Individualized
Available to students prior to IPE	Require and IPE










Students can complete a Pre-application for OVR services through the PA Careerlink website. <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/JPOnline/>

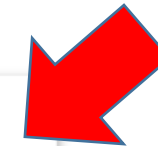
- Schools can assist students in completing the pre-application as a way to refer the student for

## INDIVIDUALS



### I'm Looking To:

 Find a Job	 Comply with UC Registration Requirement	 Apply for Disability Services
 Learn about Veteran Services	 View Local Events	 Find Training
 Learn about Online Services	 Learn about Registered Apprenticeship Program	 Learn about In-Person PA CareerLink® Services





- Students can also be referred by family, friends, Supports Coordinators and other community agencies.
- An OVR Counselor has 15 days to respond to a completed/submitted pre-application (or other form of referral) and 30 days to complete an initial interview.
- After necessary paperwork is signed at the Initial Interview, the OVR Counselor has 60 days to determine eligibility for OVR services.

The Initial Interview with an OVR Counselor will include

- a review of available OVR services,
- discussion of customer rights and responsibilities, and
- a more in-depth review of the customer's information including vocational experiences and aspirations.

If the customer is over 18 they are legally permitted to sign all forms and make decisions regarding their case, independent from their parent(s) or guardian(s), unless a court has ordered otherwise or a Power of Attorney had been granted.

Some services may require consideration of family income.

# Order of Selection (OOS)

Overview and Impact on Pre-ETS

- If a vocational rehabilitation agency is unable to serve all eligible individuals, that state must put into place an Order of Selection.
- Essentially, an Order of Selection is meant to assess and triage an individual's needs and then prioritize services based upon their level of need.
- In an Order of Selection, individuals with the most significant disabilities will be selected first for the provision of vocational rehabilitation services.

- OVR has operated under an Order of Selection since March 1994, limiting service provision to customers with a Most Significant Disability (MSD).
  - Other categories include Significant Disability (SD) and Non-Significant Disability (NSD)
- With the exception of a time-limited period under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), OVR has not been able to serve eligible customers in other priority categories due to fiscal constraints.
- **As of July 1, 2019, PA OVR closed its Order of Selection** to all customers, including customers with a Most Significant Disability (MSD), ultimately creating a **waiting list** of all eligible customers in all priority categories.

## **For Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students:**

Students with disabilities are subject to the Order of Selection as VR customers, however, they can receive Pre-Employment Transition Services in these instances:

- The potentially eligible student has already participated in one of the five required pre-employment transition services (sponsored by OVR) before receiving a determination of eligibility for VR services and being placed on the Order of Selection wait list.
- The student who has applied for VR services but has not yet been determined eligible or placed on the Order of Selection, may receive pre-employment transition services that are new or continuing.

## **For Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students:**

Please note that if a student has not received Pre-ETS prior to being determined eligible for VR services and placed on the Order of Selection waiting list, that student will not be able to receive any of the five required pre-employment transition services OR individualized VR services.

- OVR continues to evaluate its ability to serve customers. When financial resources are available, approved customers will be removed from the waiting list to begin receiving services.
- First priority will be given to customers in the MSD category, second priority to those in the SD category, and third priority to those in the NSD category.
- One category will be opened at a time
- This ensures that available services are prioritized for individuals with the most significant disabilities.
- When the MSD category is opened, customers who have been placed on a wait list will be released **based on the date they applied**, with the oldest application dates being released first.



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# Questions?

