

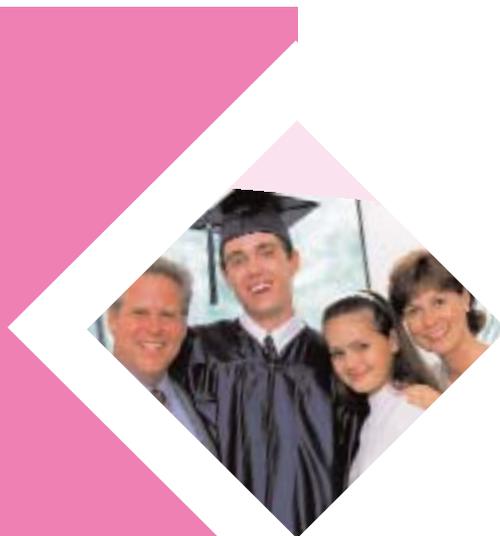
Take the First Step...

To find the VESID office near you, call:
1-800-222-JOBS (voice or TTY),
go to the website at:
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov>,
or email us at:
vesidadm@mail.nysed.gov

Check it out...

More information about helping youth with disabilities get ready for adult life can be found at this web site:
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov/speciald/transition/home.html>
This web site tells about planning careers, college, assistive technology, living on your own and other concerns that young adults have. It tells about different services, where to find help and links you to other helpful websites.

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VESID

Vocational Rehabilitation Services for High School Students

Q & A for parents



The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Office of Vocational and Educational Services
for Individuals with Disabilities
Albany, NY 12234
<http://www.vesid.nysed.gov>
1-800-222-JOBS

When students plan ahead for adult life, they are more successful in

- completing school;
- going to college; and
- getting a job.

By age 14, your child should be thinking about...

- What kind of job do I want?
- How will I get that job?
- Where can I learn the skills to qualify?

VESID is...

- the Office of Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities. VESID's vocational rehabilitation program can help an eligible person with a disability to
- Plan for a career,
 - Participate in paid work experiences,
 - Get training to achieve work goals,
 - Find a job that matches the person's abilities, interests and needs, and
 - Work with employers or colleges to make sure the person receives reasonable accommodations when needed.

Questions and Answers for parents

1

Who is eligible for VESID's vocational rehabilitation services?

To be eligible for vocational rehabilitation services, the person must have a physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability that interferes with their ability to work. The person must also need and be able to benefit from the services in order to get and keep a job.

2

Why should we be thinking about this during school?

Your student needs to make the right connections before leaving school, so there is no gap in services. After a student with a disability leaves school, no single agency is required to provide or coordinate all needed services. Each agency has its own application process and way of providing service.

3

What vocational rehabilitation services are available through VESID?

If your son or daughter is found eligible for VESID vocational rehabilitation services, a vocational rehabilitation counselor will work with your child to plan a program. The plan is called an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE).

Depending on what your child requires, services may include work evaluation, planning, counseling, skills training at a college or community rehabilitation center, adaptive equipment, support services while completing training, or placement services. Placement services may include job-seeking skills training, employer referrals, work tryouts and on-the-job services, such as job coaching or arranging for reasonable accommodations.

4

When should my son or daughter apply for VESID's vocational rehabilitation services?

We recommend that students be referred to the VESID vocational rehabilitation program while in their last two years of school.

This timing allows the counselor to job with your student, you and the school to help identify a suitable job goal and suggest work readiness activities that can take place during school. Before the student finishes school, the counselor will develop the vocational rehabilitation service plan to arrange for additional training, education or placement services still needed beyond school to achieve the job goal.

5

What is the process for applying for VESID's vocational rehabilitation services?

A school representative, such as a principal, teacher, guidance counselor or transition coordinator, can provide an application and make a referral. If

someone from your school does not talk with you about VESID by your child's senior year, then you may contact your VESID office directly. With your permission, the school will send VESID information already in the records about the nature of the disability, as well as your child's vocational needs, abilities and interests. If additional information is needed to determine eligibility or develop a plan for services, the counselor will discuss what additional medical or vocational assessments are needed.

6

Is this information confidential?

Yes. VESID will not gather or release any information without signed consent. If the student is under 18, the signed consent of a parent or guardian is required. If your son or daughter is unable to understand the consent process, a parent or guardian's consent would be required at any age.

7

As a parent, do I have any input?

Yes. Participation by parents is very important, especially when your child is under 18 years of age. You know your child best. Go with your child to the first meeting with the VESID counselor. Stay in touch with your vocational rehabilitation counselor to make sure that planning for post-high school activities is consistent with the plans you, your son or daughter are making with the school.

8

My child works part-time. Does this mean he or she is not eligible for VESID services?

The answer depends on the work goal, the hours and wages, whether it is a permanent or temporary job, and how suitable the job is. Discuss your child's situation with the counselor.



9

Will I have to pay for services for my son or daughter?

There is no cost for advice and planning assistance provided by the vocational rehabilitation counselor or for determining if and how VESID can assist you. Once it is decided that your son or daughter is eligible, family resources and level of need are considered in providing some services that may be needed by your child to accomplish the job goal. A family may be expected to share in the costs of services such as attending college, purchasing equipment, or making necessary modifications to your home. Financial need is NOT considered for job development, work tryouts, on-the-job training, and supported employment. Your counselor will discuss financial planning as part of developing the plan.

10

How will vocational rehabilitation services affect SSI or SSDI benefits?

The vocational rehabilitation counselor can advise you generally about how your child's benefits may be affected when your son or daughter begins earning wages. However, you should directly contact the Social Security Administration to obtain specific information about the impact of your child's employment on benefits and about available work incentive allowances.

11

We are also receiving services from other State agencies. How will that affect VESID services?

Inform your counselor so that all services can be coordinated to meet your child's needs.

12

Can VESID find a residential placement for my son or daughter or help with services not related to preparing for a job?

VESID does not provide these services directly, but can refer you to other agencies that can help.