Programs Vocational Rehabilitation Supports

Vocational Rehabilitation helps eligible individuals with physical or mental disabilities find, get or keep a better job.

The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) assists high school students with physical or mental disabilities with individualized programs that will lead to a meaningful career path.

Programs VR supports that help students with disabilities train for a job, continue their education or find a job after high school. Under these programs, every youth will have the opportunity to participate in sponsored career counseling, work-readiness training and fully-integrated work experiences in the community.

These services are delivered while youth are still in high school or postsecondary education to establish the foundation for a seamless transition to individualized training, education and employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation Programs for Students

VR supports students in both secondary and postsecondary programs using evidence-based models that have proven effective in serving students with disabilities. These efforts are increasing VR’s capacity to deliver services while sustaining programs that result in employment.

VR supports students in various programs, including:
- Project SEARCH
- High School High Tech
- Inclusive Postsecondary Education
Traditional Transition Programs

Project SEARCH
A nationally-recognized internship program built on a collaborative partnership with the local school district, a host business and VR. It is a business-driven model designed to provide students 18-21 years old with multiple work experiences and the social skills necessary to secure a meaningful career. Florida is the highest in the nation for the number of sites. This program has historically boasted impressive employment rates for participants.

High School High Tech
High School High Tech (HSHT) is a collaborative partnership between VR, the Able Trust and local school districts that exposes youth to high-demand jobs in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Additional STEM exploration includes work experience and opportunities available through VR providers.

Inclusive Postsecondary Education
Inclusive Postsecondary Education (IPSE) programs provide age-appropriate opportunities for learning, employment preparation, recreational activities, social interactions and the development of natural supports to students with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Many of the 15 recognized IPSE programs across the state offer an authentic college experience while pairing youth with peer, academic and community mentors.

Contact Vocational Rehabilitation

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The Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is an equal opportunity employer. It is against the law for VR as a recipient of Federal financial assistance to discriminate against any individual in the United States on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, political affiliation or belief. The application process used by VR to determine eligibility for services, any subsequent services and the entire VR process are subject to these non-discrimination requirements. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. VR program receives 78.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2020 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded were $153,000,001. The remaining 21.3 percent of the costs ($41,409,148) were funded by Florida State Appropriations. Revised October 2020.