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Nevada

Vocational Rehabilitation

A Proud Partner of American Job Center of Nevada

At Work for Disability Inclusion

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE
FOR STUDENTS
WITH DISABILITIES**

MOVING FROM SCHOOL TO ADULTHOOD



What do you want to be when you grow up? This is a common question that kids hear often. Figuring out what you want to do with the rest of your life can be scary for any young person, but for a student with disabilities, this question can be even more overwhelming. Because it's never too early to start thinking about the future, the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation has put into place a step-by-step guide outlining pre-employment planning activities for students, parents and professionals assisting students who have disabilities.

This guide is intended to provide information that is applicable to “most” young adults. However, individual needs, developmental levels and circumstances vary. Parental / coordinated support team involvement and young adults’ input is highly recommended in all phases of pre-employment planning.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS IN PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL!

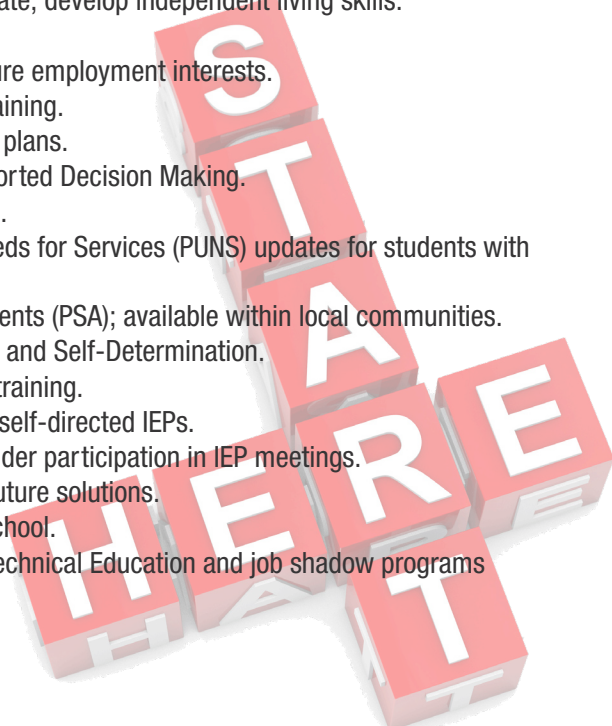
This timeline is a guide for students, parents, supported decision teams and professionals of high school students with unique needs. It is recommended that pre-employment planning begin as early as elementary school.



Many of the suggested activities overlap and are ongoing throughout the stages of pre-employment. For example, appropriate social skills for home and school are learned and expanded upon over the course of developmental stages. These skills/traits, while not repeated at each level on this time-line, are considered critical and should be both learned and expanded upon throughout the student's high school experience. Please be aware that learning what options are available at each stage is critical for successful pre-employment planning for life after high school.

14 YEARS OLD

- Determine pre-employment needs.
- Complete questionnaires, surveys and interest inventories.
- Explore recreation and leisure interests.
- Discuss medical needs and therapies.
- Consider needs and when appropriate, develop independent living skills.
- Begin early career exploration.
- Explore summer programs and future employment interests.
- Increase self-advocacy skills via training.
- Complete IEP and pre-employment plans.
- Create personal networks for Supported Decision Making.
- Consider Pre-Employment Services.
- Complete Priority of Urgency of Needs for Services (PUNS) updates for students with intellectual disabilities.
- Utilize Pre-admission Screening Agents (PSA); available within local communities.
- Promote Person-Centered Planning and Self-Determination.
- Offer parents disability awareness training.
- Encourage student participation in self-directed IEPs.
- Encourage parent and service provider participation in IEP meetings.
- Explore transportation needs and future solutions.
- Review courses of study for high school.
- Consider applying for Career and Technical Education and job shadow programs through school.



15 YEARS OLD

- Promote student participation in career events.
- Initiate referrals to relevant state and community agencies, i.e. Vocational Rehabilitation, Regional Center, Center for Independent Living, etc.
- Consider personal networks for Supported Decision Making and Self-Determination.
- Determine transportation/mobility training needs.
- Explore case management needs.
- Consider referrals to school-to-work programs, Career and Technical Education and career fairs.
- Explore summer programs, Pre-Employment Services and future employment opportunities.
- Explore current and future living options.
- Encourage parent and service providers' participation in IEP meetings.
- Review high school course of study.
- Discuss potential for Supplemental Social Security (SSI) and Social Security Work Incentives (SSWI).
- Review/revise pre-employment plans and services, as applicable.



16 YEARS OLD

- Participate in interest/vocational inventories.
- Discuss supported employment and job coaching.
- Access career counseling and job shadowing and/or job training.
- Consider post-secondary education options.
- Participate in Pre-Employment Services as needed.
- Obtain driver's license or state ID-card.
- Create personal networks for Supported Decision Making.
- Explore summer program and employment options.
- Consider referrals to school-to-work programs, Career and Technical Education and career fairs.
- Review high school course of study.
- Make referral to appropriate outside community agencies.
- Invite service providers to IEP meeting i.e., Vocational Rehabilitation, Regional Center, Center for Independent Living, etc.
- Review goals in the IEP and revise, if necessary.



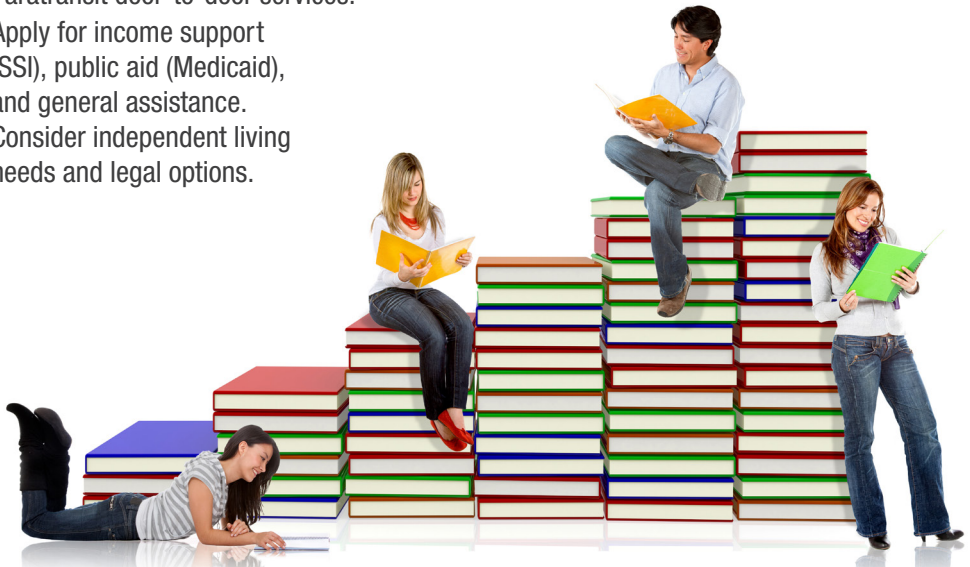
17 YEARS OLD

- Explore apprenticeship, job shadowing, job training, and mentoring programs.
- Explore options for accessing therapy/counseling and/or other community agency services.
- Obtain functional vocational evaluations.
- Enroll in vocational education classes, where applicable.
- Discuss taxes and medical insurance.
- Investigate financial aid resources.
- Establish graduation date.
- Visit vocational, educational, and residential options.
- Register for and complete ACT or SAT testing, if appropriate.
- Invite service providers to IEP meeting i.e., Vocational Rehabilitation, Regional Center, Center for Independent Living.
- Review high school course of study.
- Apply for reduced Disability Fare Card and/or Paratransit door-to-door services.
- Apply to/visit post-secondary education programs.
- Request/participate in all needed Pre-Employment Services.
- Review pre-employment plan in the IEP and revise if necessary.



18 YEARS OLD

- Apply for post-secondary vocational services for colleges, trade schools, and training centers.
- Explore apprenticeship, job shadowing, job training, and mentoring programs.
- Explore options for accessing therapy/counseling and/or other community agency services.
- Referral to adult service providers and invite to pre-employment planning meetings, i.e., Nevada Adult Mental Health, Vocational Rehabilitation, Regional Center, Center for Independent Living, etc.
- Apply for reduced Disability Fare Card and/or Paratransit door-to-door services.
- Apply for income support (SSI), public aid (Medicaid), and general assistance.
- Consider independent living needs and legal options.



18 YEARS OLD

- Register to vote and for Selective Service.
- Contact case management agency that coordinates funding for in-home and residential supported living in the community, if appropriate.
- Include adult service providers and Supported Decision Making Team in pre-employment planning meeting (write pre-employment goals).
- Contact disability resource center at college, if appropriate.
- Ensure receipt of all needed Pre-Employment Services.
- Review pre-employment plan and services; revise if necessary.
- Attend educational career fairs at universities and community colleges.
- Consider summer vocational camps, job shadowing and internships.



19-22 YEARS OLD



- Identify and access recreation/leisure options.
- Actively participate in post-secondary vocational services (college/trade schools) and/or employment.
- Encourage active participation with adult service providers (for students remaining in high school).
- Review high school course of study.
- Follow-up with referrals for service provision from adult service providers.
- Investigate post-secondary education with follow-up services.
- Apply for Medicaid, if appropriate.
- Pursue adult education.
- Systematic phase out of school supports; phase in adult services.
- Utilize personal networks for Supported Decision Making.
- Participate in summer internships.
- Invite service providers to IEP meetings.



The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation works with high school students who have disabilities and are progressing to post-secondary education and/or employment. The program is a collaborative effort with the student, family and school staff. Vocational Rehabilitation services are available for students whose disabilities result in a substantial barrier to employment. This program is available for all students with disabilities, not just for those who are enrolled in special education classes.

Vocational Rehabilitation is an Equal Employment Opportunity program/service. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request during consultations with counselors and service providers.

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Service Locations

For more information about Vocational
Rehabilitation Transition Services call one of
these locations:

Carson City	(775) 684-0357
Elko	(775) 753-1931
Ely	(775) 289-1675
Fallon	(775) 423-6568
Reno/Sparks	(775) 823-8100
Las Vegas area	(702) 486-5230
Winnemucca	(775) 623-6544

Nevada Relay 711
TTY 775-684-8400 or 800-326-6868
www.nvdetr.org
www.vrnevada.org

