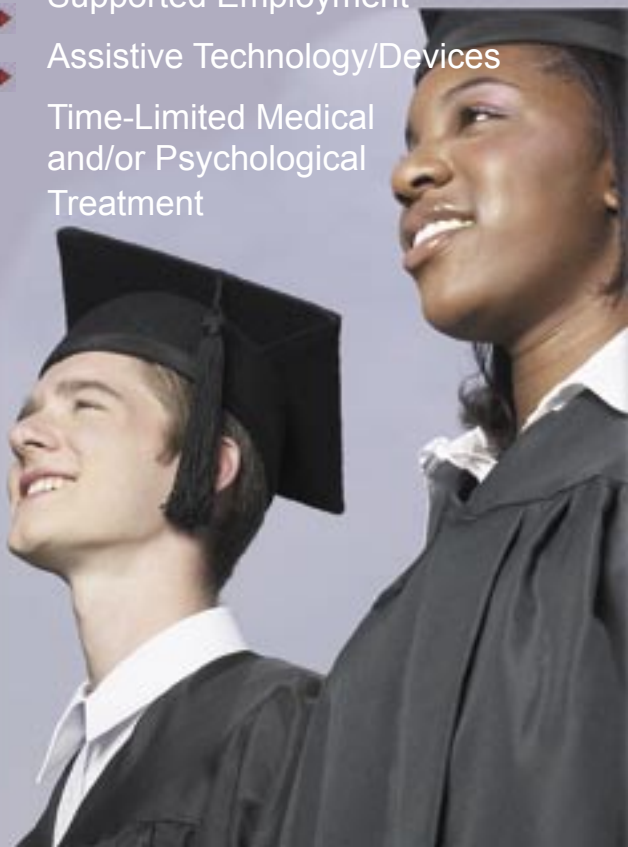


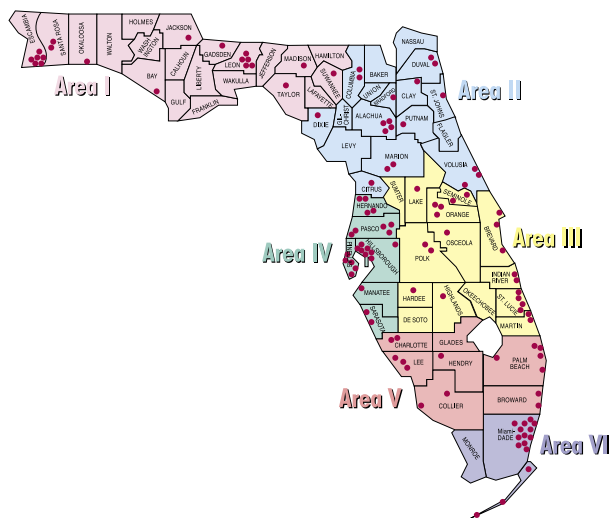
## What Type of Assistance May Be Available from VR?

- ➔ Medical and Psychological Assessment
- ➔ Vocational Evaluation and Planning
- ➔ Career Counseling and Guidance
- ➔ Training and Education After High School
- ➔ Job-Site Assessment and Accommodations
- ➔ Job Placement
- ➔ Job Coaching
- ➔ Supported Employment
- ➔ Assistive Technology/Devices
- ➔ Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment



## How Can VR Help?

VR provides services that are based on the needs of students seeking employment through career planning, job training, job coaching, job placement, follow-up, and/or other services deemed necessary to reach the employment goal.



### For More Information, Contact:

Florida Department of Education  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Building A  
2002 Old Saint Augustine Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301-4862  
(850) 245-3399 (Voice and TTY)  
(866) 515-3692 (Voice and TTY)  
[www.rehabworks.org](http://www.rehabworks.org)

04/2005

# A Guide for

# SCHOOL

# to

# Work

# Transition Services





## Who is Eligible for VR Services?

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is a state-federal program within the Florida Department of Education (DOE). To be eligible for VR services, an individual must have a physical or mental disability which results in an impediment to employment and requires vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain gainful employment.

## What Is VR School to Work Transition?

VR School to Work Transition involves a number of activities that help students enter training and/or work after leaving high school. Our goal is to help students, who

### *How Does a Student Get Referred to VR?*

*Referrals can be made by anyone, including teachers, guidance counselors, school personnel, parents, or the student. Please use the information on the back of this pamphlet to contact us.*

## What Are the School's Responsibilities?

The school is responsible for providing a free and appropriate public education, including specialized instruction and related services, to students with disabilities until they earn a standard diploma or reach their 22nd birthday.

## When Is a Good Time for Referral to VR?

Representatives from VR should be invited to participate in transition Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings for students likely to need VR services when the student is age 16, or earlier if at risk of dropping out of school. The purpose of this early communication is to ensure that the student and family are aware of VR eligibility requirements and possible services. However, a good time for the formal referral to VR would be by the end of the student's junior year or no later than November of the student's senior year in high school. This will ensure timely eligibility determination and finalization of an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) by the time the student leaves school.

## What about Students with Disabilities Not in Exceptional Student Education (ESE)?

Students with disabilities who are not eligible for exceptional student education may be eligible for accommodations and services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. These students may also be appropriate for VR services.

## What Happens Next?

The student meets with his or her VR counselor to start the application process and determine eligibility. Once found eligible, post-school planning will begin and a vocational plan will be developed. The IPE will closely match the school's transition IEP and will address the services needed for a successful post-school employment outcome.

### What Do VR Services Cost?

Vocational Rehabilitation services are provided at no cost to eligible persons. However, use of comparable services will be explored throughout the process to ensure all other funding resources have been examined. Examples would include: individual resources, other agency or program assistance, grants, and scholarships.

## What if My Child Is Receiving Social Security?

It is possible for a student to work and continue to receive Social Security benefits and Medicaid. Conditions are specific to each person and should be discussed with a VR counselor or Social Security representative.

## What Is the Importance of Family Involvement?

The success of transition planning depends on the involvement of the parents or guardians in helping their student, aged 17 years or younger, achieve his or her goals. When a student reaches 18 years or older, he or she will assume responsibility for their own planning, unless they are assigned a legal guardian. However, family support continues to play an important role in his or her success beyond high school.