



## Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

*Building Positive Futures for Virginia's Children*

# Virginia Department of Rehabilitation Services: Supporting Transition Aged Youth with Disabilities

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***What Are Transition Services?*** Transition services help students as they move from school to the world of work and adult life. The Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) works together with students, families, schools and community agencies to provide services to support a successful transition from school to work.

***How Can Your DRS Counselor Assist You?*** Your DRS Counselor can work with you to reach your future employment goal. Your DRS Counselor works together with you, your family, and your teachers as you develop your TRANSITION PLAN. The TRANSITION PLAN identifies what steps you need to take to reach your goals for meaningful employment, responsible adult life and maximum independence after completing school.

***Your Employment Goal(s) Will Include Your Abilities, Skills, Needs, Interests And Preferences.***

Your goals will help you think through these questions:

- What kind of career will I have?
- What do I need to learn?
- How will I reach my goals?

***What Services are Free?***

- Diagnostics, Evaluation, Assessment
- Disability awareness counseling
- Vocational and career path counseling
- Job seeking and job retention counseling
- Access to Employment Resource Centers - job searching and finding employment leads
- Job Placement
- Driver Evaluation
- On-the-job Training
- Follow along services after placement



***What DRS Services May Require You or Your Family to Share the Cost?*** Depending on your income and your family's income, you may need to pay a share of the cost for:

- Training
  - Supported Employment
  - Apprenticeship Programs
  - Work Adjustment
  - Post-Secondary Education Programs, vocational/technical schools, college/certificate programs
  - External Training Options (through Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center)
  - Life Skills Training
- Related Services
  - Transportation
  - Rehabilitation Technology/Accommodations
  - Personal Assistance Services (PAS)
  - Long Term Rehabilitative Case Management (LTRCM)
  - Centers for Independent Living
  - Supportive Services

***What Other DRS Programs and Services Are Available For You?*** Experienced professionals at DRS offer specialized programs and services that cater to individual needs, skills and abilities.

- Assistive Technology (consultation and evaluation)
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services
- Brain Injury Services
- Long Term Mental Illness Services
- (Vision Services are provided through the Department for Blind and Visually Impaired)

***What DRS Programs Are Available At the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)?*** The Center provides integrated medical and vocational rehabilitation services addressing the comprehensive needs of clients to improve independence and employability. The campus houses a vocational school and medical rehabilitation units. Both offer state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, a professional, committed staff, and highly effective programs including:

- Counseling
- Vocational and Pre-Vocational Evaluation and Training
- Medical Rehabilitation Services
- Driver Education
- Student Internships
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing Case Management Services and Interpreting Services
- Vocational Training



***What Is PERT?*** PERT is Post-Secondary Education Rehabilitation Transition. (Some regions in Virginia may not have PERT Services available)

PERT provides high school students a comprehensive evaluation in the areas of vocational skills, independent living skills, and leisure and social skills.

These evaluations may lead to additional vocational programs and services that may assist the student with a smooth transition from secondary to postsecondary education, training and employment.

***DRS Services are Voluntary. If You Are Eligible, DRS May Help You Remove Barriers To Employment.***

You may meet with your DRS counselor when you begin your Transition Plan and at least one year before you plan to leave school. If you have special needs or requests for services, you may call your DRS counselor any time.

From “Exploring the Future and Creating a Timeline” webcast – a partnership between PEATC and VCU/RRTC. For a free download please visit:

<http://www.worksupport.com/training/webcastDetails.cfm/122>

Supported by a grant from US Department of Education # H235F070018



## Introducing the TACE Centers

Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers provide technical support and continuing education programs to state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners. The Centers are VR's resource for current, reliable information on quality management practices, service delivery and vocational rehabilitation skill sets. The Centers have the resources of the entire TA Network to help each agency improve its organizational performance and ultimately improve employment outcomes for consumers with disabilities. For more information on current or planned activities in a federal region, contact the TACE Centers as follows:

### **Region 1 – CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT**

#### **University of Massachusetts, Boston**

Institute for Community Inclusion/ UCEDD  
 100 Morrissey Blvd.  
 Boston, MA 02125  
 Phone: (617) 287-4342  
 TTY: (617) 287-4350  
 Web site: <http://www.nercep.org>

### **Region 2 – NJ, NY, PR, VI**

#### **State University of New York, Buffalo**

316 Parker Hall, 3435 Main St.  
 Buffalo, NY 14214-3007  
 Phone: (716) 829-3934  
 Web site: <http://www.rcep2.buffalo.edu>

### **Region 3 – DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV**

#### **George Washington University**

2011 Eye St. N.W., Ste 300  
 Washington, D.C. 20006  
 Phone: (202) 973-1550  
 TTY (202) 973-1544  
 Web site: <http://www.gwu.edu/~rcep/>

### **Region 4 – AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, MS, TN**

#### **TACE Southeast**

1419 Mayson St.  
 Atlanta, GA 30309  
 Phone: 404-541-9001  
 Web site: <http://www.tacesoutheast.org>

### **Region 5 – IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI**

#### **Southern Illinois University – Carbondale**

Northwest Annex, Wing B, Ste 101  
 Carbondale, IL 62901-6703  
 Phone: (618) 536-2461  
 Web site: <http://www.rcepV.siu.edu/>

### **Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX**

#### **University of Arkansas**

Graduate Education Building  
 College of Education and Health Professions  
 Fayetteville, AR 72701  
 Phone: (501) 623-7700  
 Web site: <http://www.uacurrents.org>

### **Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE**

#### **University of Missouri-Columbia**

98 Corporate Lake Drive  
 Columbia, MO 65203  
 Phone: (417) 532-7192

### **Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY**

#### **University of Northern Colorado**

Gunter Hall, Room 0290  
 Campus Box 82  
 Greeley, CO 80639  
 Phone: (970) 351-1320, (800) 765-8230  
 Web site: <http://www.unco.edu/TACE>

### **Region 9 AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Basin**

#### **San Diego State University**

Interwork Institute  
 5500 Campanile Drive  
 San Diego, CA 92182  
 Phone: (619) 594-7183  
 Web site: <http://interwork.sdsu.edu/>

### **Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA**

#### **University of Washington**

Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation  
 6912 220th St. SW, Suite 105  
 Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043  
 Phone: (425) 774-9303  
 TTY: (425) 771-7438  
<http://www.ccer.org>