



# Overview of VRS Introductory Career Services


# Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)



- A state employment services agency that serves people with disabilities
  - People who are blind, low vision or DeafBlind are served by State Services for the Blind (SSB)
- A division of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)
- A partner in the [CareerForce system](#)
  - 50 CareerForce locations in the state
- **VRS serves youth and adults ages 14+!**

# VRS Offers Two Types of Services to Students

## VRS Student Career Services



### TWO TYPES OF SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS), in close collaboration with schools, offers two types of services for students (age 14 up until 22) with IEPs, 504 plans or other medical/mental health documentation.

Introductory Career Services (ICS)	Full Career Services (FCS)
Help students with disabilities get an early start in career planning, and is typically geared toward youth in 9th, 10th and 11th grade.	May serve as a "next step" for students with disabilities who are typically in 11th and 12th grade (or 18-22 transition programming) to receive more individualized career services.

#### What are the services?


Free online courses for students to learn and explore within the five Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) as needed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Job exploration</li><li>Work-based learning</li><li>Training and college exploration</li><li>Workplace readiness</li><li>Self-advocacy</li></ul>	Based on each student's needs, services may include any of the five Pre-ETS, plus other services and supports during high school and after graduation to help with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Postsecondary education or training</li><li>Finding a job</li><li>Keeping a job</li></ul>
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#### How long can a student receive services?

Available ONLY while enrolled in school.	As long as needed, until they reach their employment goal. People can apply or re-apply for services at any age.
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#### How does a student access services?

School staff help students apply for ICS and then register for and complete courses that address unmet career development needs.	School staff interested in helping high school students access FCS can contact the VRS counselor assigned to their school to discuss the application process.
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Visit [mn.gov/deed/vrs-student](https://mn.gov/deed/vrs-student) for more information about how to get an ICS application packet and to see the list of VRS counselors by school.

The VRS program received 78.70% of federal fiscal year 2024 funding through grants from the U.S. Department of Education. The federal fiscal year 2024 grants totaled \$62,550,495. The required state match for these funds is \$14,299,989. The state of Minnesota appropriated

**mn** EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## VRS Student Career Services: Two Types of Services for Students

**mn** EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

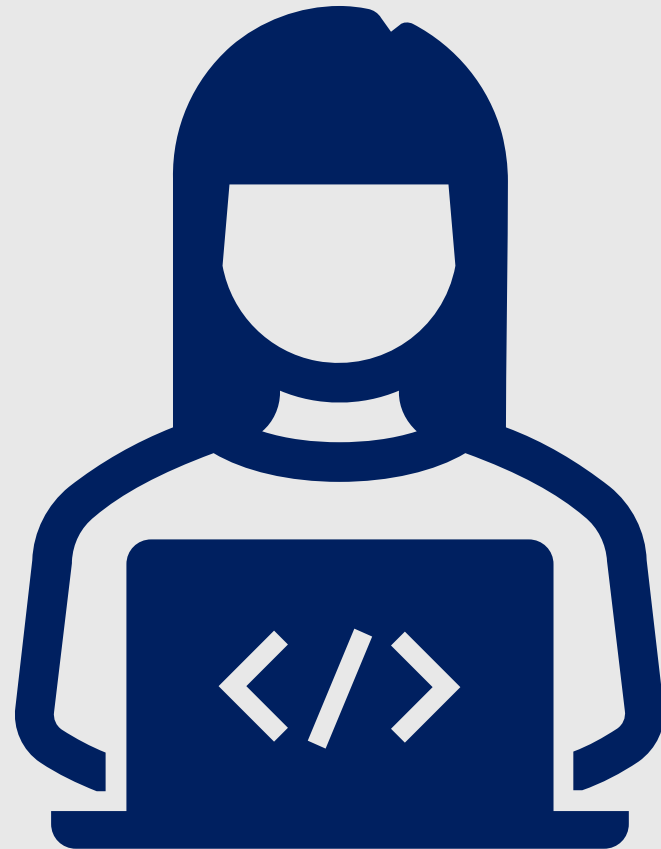
# Introductory Career Services (ICS)

# Model for Introductory Career Services (ICS)

- Effective at the start of the 2025-26 school year, VRS is implementing a model for providing ICS which includes:
  - Online group classes
  - Close partnership with school staff

# Online Classes

- Free, live, and offered at various times throughout the school day
- 30 minutes in length
- Within the [5 Pre-Employment Transition Services](#):
  - Job exploration
  - Work-based learning
  - Postsecondary education exploration
  - Workplace readiness
  - Self-advocacy



# Close Partnership With School Staff



- School staff:
  - Reach out to [vrs.studentclasses@state.mn.us](mailto:vrs.studentclasses@state.mn.us) to request ICS application packet
  - Assist student/family in completing forms
  - Return completed forms to same email address
- VRS staff:
  - Email information before and after classes to student, school staff, and family members/authorized representatives (as applicable)

# ICS Class Tips

## Help Students

Help students complete necessary paperwork to enroll in ICS

Once enrolled, help them register and log into classes

## Quiet Space

Ensure they have a quiet space to log onto classes

## Register Groups

Option: A teacher can register a group of students and display the ICS class on a screen in the front of a classroom

- Have students log into the class on their own devices
- Ensure their sound is turned off

## Student Email

Student emails: Consider having them use a personal email address

# Students Learn How to Access Pathful



- <https://www.pathful.com/platform>
- Career and college readiness platform
- Assessments, videos, planning tools
- Helps students explore and prepare for careers and postsecondary education programs

# Class one for all students: Pathful 101

- Once a student is enrolled in ICS, the first class they enroll in is Pathful 101:
  - They log in for the first time
  - Learn the capabilities, accessibility features of Pathful
- After attending that class, school staff help them register for other classes within Pre-ETS area(s) of need.
- Pathful is embedded into many classes

# Job Exploration Classes

- **Meaningful Employment:** Students will be able to describe what meaningful employment means.
- **Lifestyle Calculator:** Students will learn more about what type of job they will need to support their lifestyle.
- **What Are My Work Interests:** Complete interest inventory resulting in career cluster(s) of interest
- **Explore Careers Of Interest:** Students will use their interest inventory results to learn how to find more information about specific jobs in career clusters of interest.

# Work-Based Learning

- **Virtual Informational Interviews:** Students will be shown a virtual informational interview and learn how to look up other virtual informational interviews of interest.
- **Preparing for My Informational Interview:** Students will be shown how to prepare questions for an informational interview.
- **Work Observation:** Students will learn how to visit a business to learn about a work environment or job.

# Postsecondary Education Exploration

- **Types of Postsecondary Education and Training:** Students will learn about the different types of postsecondary education and training programs.
- **Postsecondary Education and Training Topics:** Students will learn postsecondary education topics: Post secondary options, campus visits, enrollment, financial aid, skills for success and advocacy and support needs.
- **Higher Education for Students with Intellectual Disabilities:** Students will learn about Inclusive Higher Education, which provides programming, services, and supports for people with an intellectual disability (ID) to be successful at a college, university, community college, or technical college.
- **Exploring Colleges:** Students will learn how to search and compare post-secondary education schools in their career clusters of interest.

# Workplace Readiness

- **Soft Skills:** Students will learn about workplace communication and hygiene.
- **Employment Application:** Students will complete a sample employment application that can be used to help them apply for jobs.
- **Interpersonal Skills:** Students will learn how to define interpersonal etiquette, explain why interpersonal etiquette is important in the workplace and learn how to improve their own interpersonal etiquette skills.
- **Build My Resume:** Students will learn how to build their resume.

# Self-Advocacy

- **What is Self-Advocacy:** Students will learn what self-advocacy means.
- **Why is Self-Advocacy Important:** Students will learn why self-advocacy is important.
- **Advocating for Myself at Work:** Students will define self-advocacy, understand the importance of self-advocacy and discover how to develop self-advocacy skills in their life.
- **Disability Disclosure and Requesting Accommodations:** Students will learn what disclosing their disability looks like and how disclosure can impact their work life experience. This class will cover the What, When, Why, and How to disclose.

# Full Career Services (FCS)

# Services May Include

- Career Counseling
- Job Training
- Job Placement
- Services to Keep a Job
- Pre-Employment Transition Services
- And more!



# Questions?



- Visit our [website](#)
- Email us at:  
[vrs.studentclasses@state.mn.us](mailto:vrs.studentclasses@state.mn.us)