



VRS Student Career Services

CONNECTING STUDENTS TO WORK

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are employment services for students and adults with disabilities. Every high school in Minnesota has a VR counselor assigned to help students with disabilities explore jobs, gain skills and start a career.

Who should apply?

Students with disabilities who need extra support to explore, prepare for, find, keep or advance in a job might benefit from VR services. A typical time to apply is two years prior to graduation.

Who is eligible?

You may be eligible if you have any disability that makes it hard for you to work. Disabilities can include physical, learning, mental health or sensory conditions.

If I am eligible, will I be served right away?

Not always. If there aren't enough resources to serve all people who are eligible for VR, those with the most significant disabilities are served first. If you can't be served right away, you will be notified and added to a waiting list.

How do I document that I have a disability?

Typically a student's disability is documented from a school assessment, a psychological report or a medical provider's records. Your VR counselor can help you collect this documentation.

What can Vocational Rehabilitation services do for me while I'm in high school?

VR services can help you understand your interests and talents, explore career and training options, gain work experiences, learn new skills, and be ready for what comes after you graduate from high school.

What can Vocational Rehabilitation services do for me after high school?

Once you know your job goal, your VR counselor can help you achieve that goal. Whether it's postsecondary training, help finding work, or assistance on the job, VR services will offer support you need to get and keep a satisfying job in your community.



What if I get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Medical Assistance (MA)?

Young people on disability benefits are usually better off when they work. Your VR counselor will help you explore how benefits and a job can work together. You can also begin this exploration on your own by going to mn.db101.org.

How much do services cost?

There is no charge for most VR services. For some expenses (such as tuition for college or technical school, or fees for certain specialized services) you could be responsible for part of the cost.

Do I have choices?

We'll provide support, but ultimately you're the one who will choose your own job goals and decide how to achieve them. You decide whether to develop plans on your own or with someone else's assistance. But if you wish to receive services, a counselor will need to approve your plan.

To learn more about VR services, contact the VR counselor assigned to your school.

Visit mn.gov/deed/vrs-student to see a list of counselors by school. You can also call 1.800.328.9095 or 651.259.7366



These Vocational Rehabilitation services are offered through the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS).

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VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

mn.gov/deed/vrs-student

The VR 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 \$52,850,455. The required state match for these funds is \$14,299,999. The state of Minnesota appropriated \$14.3 million to meet the match requirement.