



**Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Rehabilitation Services**

Pre-Employment Transition Services Fact Sheet

In July 2014, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) was signed into law. WIOA replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (WIA) and amends the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. WIOA requires vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies to set aside 15% of their federal funds to provide pre-employment transition services specifically to “Students with Disabilities.”

A “Student with a Disability” is defined as an individual who:

- is enrolled in a secondary school (including home school or other alternative secondary education program), post-secondary education program, or other recognized educational program and has not exited, graduated, or withdrawn;
- is at least 14 years old but less than age 22; and
- has a disability documented with an IEP, 504 plan, medical records, or a doctor’s note.

The limited pre-employment transition services that may be provided, based on identified need and the availability of services, include:

- Job exploration counseling

- Work-based learning experiences, which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experiences outside of the traditional school setting, and/or internships
- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary educational programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
- Instruction in self-advocacy

Students with disabilities interested in participating in a pre-employment transition service listed above (or vocational rehabilitation services, if eligible) may contact their local Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) office directly or be referred by school personnel.

For additional information regarding the Division of Rehabilitation Services or to refer for services, please visit our website at www.dors.maryland.gov.