

Collaborating for Success:

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)
Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

November 1st, 2022

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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

- A state agency with a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program that assists people with disabilities with career exploration, job-seeking and job-keeping services.
- Committed to ensuring individuals with disabilities have opportunities to compete for and enjoy high quality employment
- Services include assistance to Students With Disabilities (SWDs)





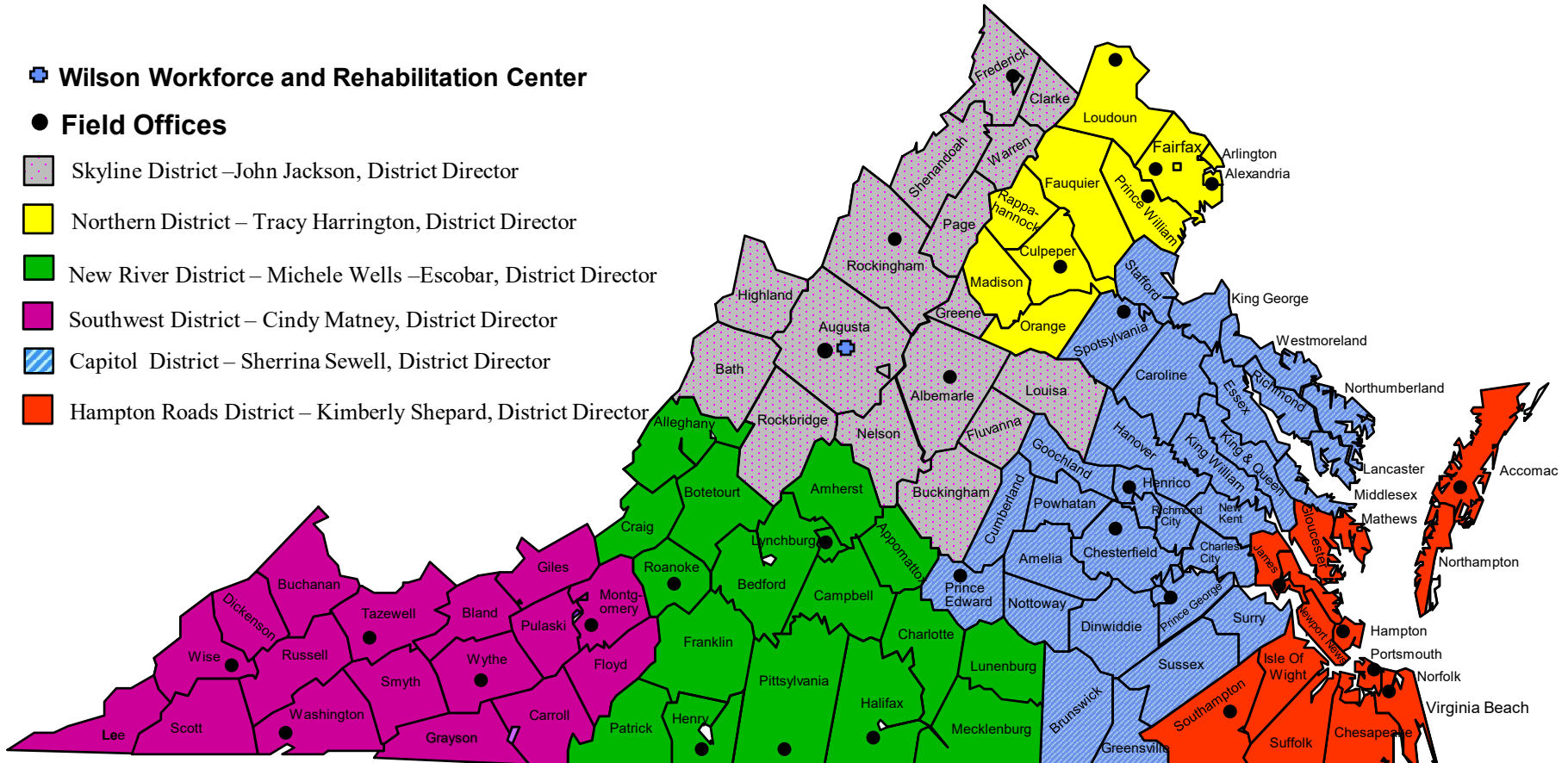
Virginia Dept. for Aging and Rehabilitative Services

Division of Rehabilitative Services

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center

Field Offices

- Skyline District – John Jackson, District Director
- Northern District – Tracy Harrington, District Director
- New River District – Michele Wells –Escobar, District Director
- Southwest District – Cindy Matney, District Director
- Capitol District – Sherrina Sewell, District Director
- Hampton Roads District – Kimberly Shepard, District Director



Effective 09/25/2021

DRS Offers Two Types of Services

- Pre Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
 - Available to students with disabilities only
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)
 - Available to students with disabilities, youth and adults with disabilities



Pre-ETS for Students with Disabilities (SWDs)

- A SWD is:
 - ages 14 to 21 (22 if birthday is during school year);
 - in a secondary, post-secondary or other recognized education program; and
 - an individual with a documented disability



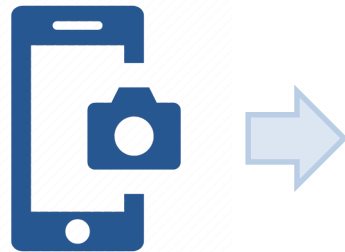
DARS and Students with Disabilities

- DARS offers two sets of services to Students With Disabilities (SWDs)
 - Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)
 - Do not require an eligibility determination.
 - Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services
 - Do require an eligibility determination.



Referring Students for Pre-ETS

- Anybody can refer a student (teacher, case worker, student/family, etc.)
 - Referral must include the following:
 - [Pre-ETS Information Release & Consent Form](#)
 - Copy of IEP, 504 accommodation, or other documentation verifying disability & school enrollment



Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Designed to:
 - Encourage and support initial career exploration;
 - Enrich transition planning and services available to prepare students for successful careers and adult life; and
 - Empower students to maximize their employment and personal and financial independence.



Pre-Employment Transition Services

- Begin general (mostly group-based) and become more individualized
- May lead to interests that can be further explored through Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services
- Provided at no cost to participants
- May be provided virtually or in person



The Five Pre-ETS

Supports SWDs to...

1. Job Exploration Counseling (JEC)

Learn about career pathways, in-demand industries and occupations, the labor market and their career interests

2. Work-Based Learning (WBL)

Further explore the world of work, occupations and career pathways and have opportunities to practice and improve workplace skills

3. Counseling on Postsecondary Education/Training Options (CPSET)

Develop awareness of the range of postsecondary educational and occupational training opportunities that lead to industry-recognized credentials to prepare for Career Pathways.

4. Workplace Readiness Training (WRT)

Job-seeking, job-keeping, social or interpersonal, and independent living skills (including travel training).

5. Instruction in Self-Advocacy (ISA)

Develop communication, decision-making; and self-determination skills

Where are Pre-ETS provided?

- In schools
 - Planned collaboratively with school personnel
- DARS Field Offices
- Community (e.g. businesses, college campuses)
- Virtually



When do Pre-ETS End?

- Student is no longer interested in or available to receive Pre-ETS; or
- Individual no longer meets the definition of a Student with a Disability (SWD).



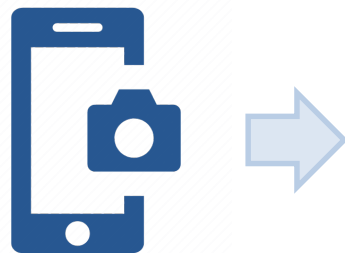
Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and VR Transition Services

- Pre-ETS help students get an early start exploring careers of interest and developing foundational skills.
- VR Transition services are designed to support students pursue their goals as they transition out of school.



To Learn More and Get Connected...

- Check out our DARS website: <https://vadars.org/>
- Visit our Pre-ETS and VR Transition Services page: <https://vadars.org/drs/transitionservices.htm>
- Find your local DARS office (Scan QR Code Below):

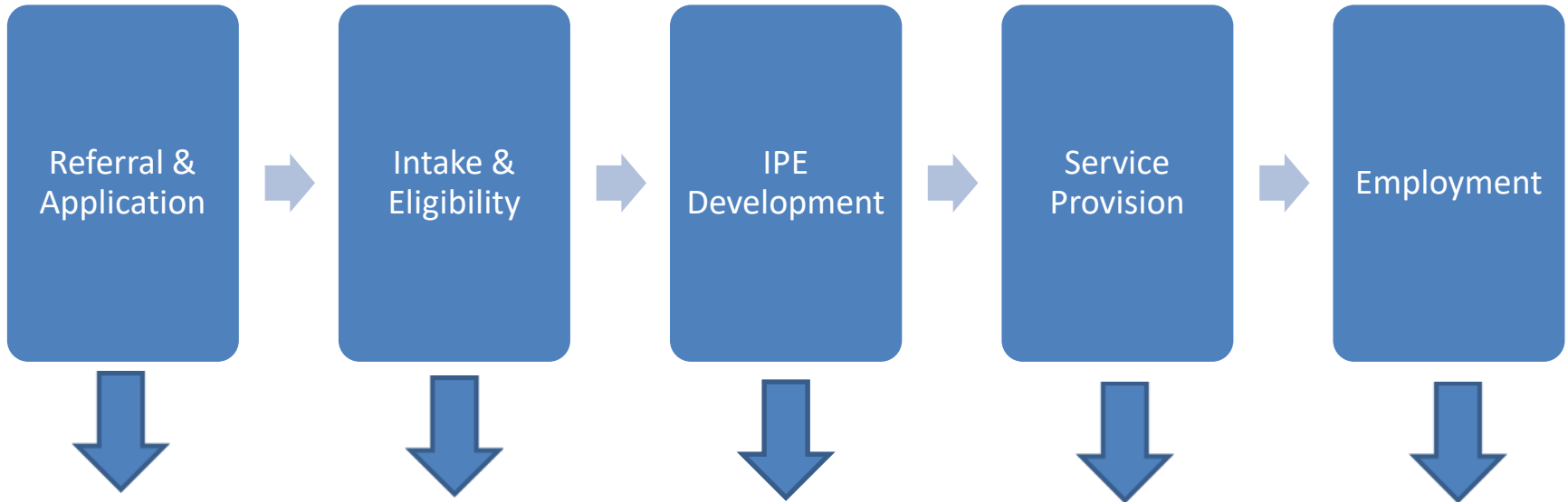


Vocational Rehabilitation

- The VR program helps people with disabilities become prepared for, find, and maintain competitive, integrated employment and live more independently in the community.
- The difference between VR and Pre-ETS is that VR services are individualized, planned services that the VR counselor and consumer agree are needed to assist the individual in working toward and accomplishing his or her employment goal.
- In order to receive VR services, the individual **must** first apply and become eligible for the VR program.



VR Flow Chart



**Competitive Integrated
Employment & Case Closure**



Youth/Adult Referrals to DRS

- To refer yourself or someone you know (with their consent):
 - [Contact your local DRS office](#) or call 1-800-552-5019 to be appropriately directed.
 - DRS accepts self-referrals and referrals from social workers, doctors, mental health professionals, high school teachers, family, employers, hospitals and many others.
- Once a referral is received, an initial intake meeting is scheduled with an assigned local VR counselor to complete an application for VR services and begin the eligibility determination process.



Eligibility Criteria

To become eligible for VR services, an applicant to the VR program must:

- Have a physical or mental impairment that is, or results in, a substantial impediment to employment,
- Require VR services to prepare for, secure, retain, advance in, or regain employment that is consistent with my strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choices, and
- Be able to benefit in terms of an employment outcome (competitive integrated employment or supported employment) from VR services.
- Be present (live, work, or go to school) in Virginia and be eligible to work in the U.S.



Intake & Eligibility Determination

- Intake is an opportunity for the VR counselor to gather information about the applicant's disability, background, & employment goals/expectations.
- Information about barriers to employment are gathered through an initial interview, records review, and additional assessments as necessary to determine eligibility for services.
- Eligibility within 60 days, but may be extended if necessary (for trial work plan and/or more time to collect information).
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) planning begins here



What is an IPE?

- Individualized Employment Plan (IPE)
 - Guide to employment that consists of the individual's employment goal, financial participation responsibilities, planned services, consumer responsibilities, goals and progress measures



Service Planning & Delivery

- VR Services may have costs for the client
 - Client financial participation responsibilities range from 0-100%
- Provided by in-house DARS staff and/or Service Providers
- IPE is a “working document” agreed upon by counselor and client (& representative when necessary)
- Progress measures & services relate to Serious Functional Limitations
- Consider comparable benefits when appropriate



Examples of VR Services

Counseling and Guidance

Job Placement

Vocational Evaluation

Customized Employment

Situational Assessments

Job Coach Training Services

On-the-Job Training

Supported Employment

Unpaid Work Experiences

Self-Employment Enterprise

Assistive Technology Assessments and Services/Accommodations

Wilson Workforce and Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

Postsecondary Education/Vocational Training

Support services (Job readiness training, resume development, application assistance, driver's education, time-limited transportation assistance, etc.)

Wilson Workforce & Rehabilitation Center (WWRC)

- Campus located in Fishersville, VA
- Postsecondary Education Rehabilitation Training (PERT)
 - school-to-work program for students/youth in transition
- Vocational Evaluation Services
- Vocational Training programs
 - Include programming to teach soft skills for employment
 - New customer service certification program
- Medical Services (occupational, speech/language, physical, cognitive)
- Assistive Technology
- Driver Evaluation & Training (including modified)



Thank you!

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