

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

Transition and Youth Services

An Overview of ACCES-VR Services



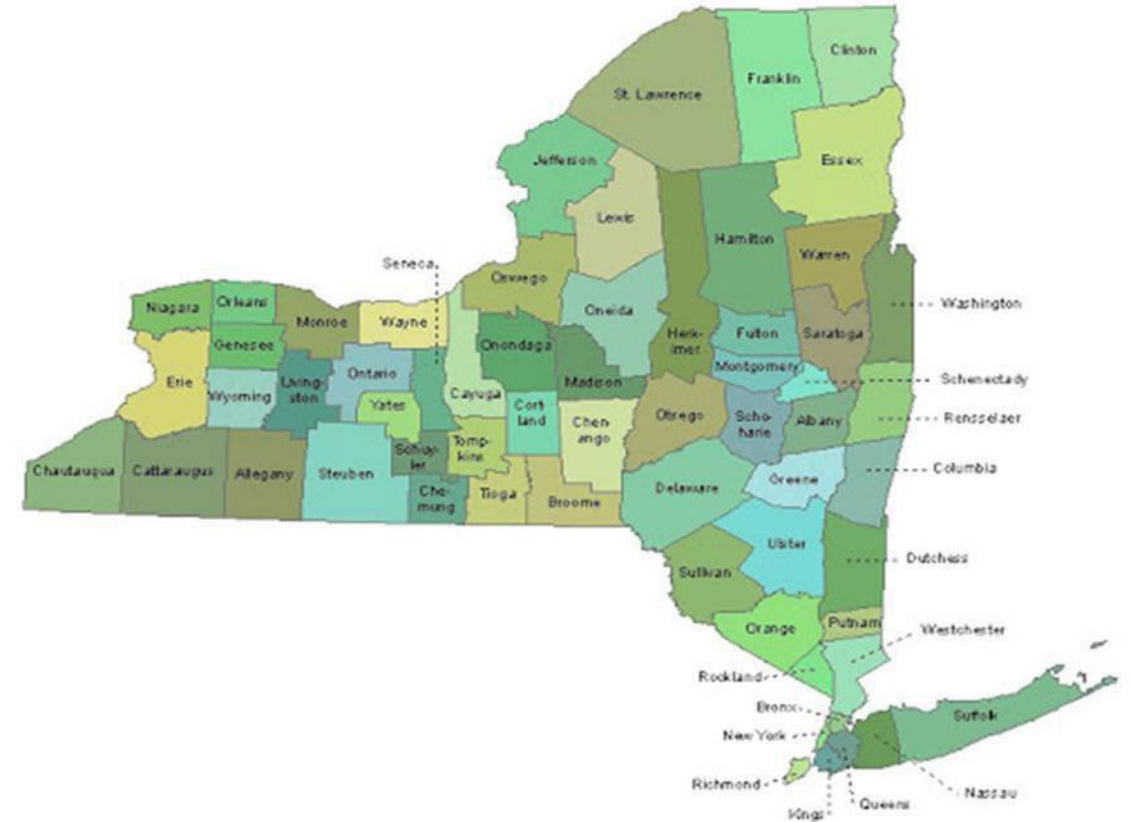
Introductions



ACCES-VR

- An office within the New York State Education Department
- 15 district offices and 10 satellite offices

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>



ACCES-VR: Purpose and Process



- ACCES-VR's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to go to WORK.
- ACCES-VR is an ELIGIBILITY based program, *not an entitlement program*. Individuals must qualify to receive services.



Students and Youth With a Disability

- **Student with a Disability:**
 - Ages 14–22
 - Has a documented disability
 - *Is enrolled in an educational or training program*
- **Youth with a Disability:**
 - Ages 14–25
 - Has a documented disability



Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

ACCES-VR provides a variety of services to assist students with disabilities to identify, prepare for, and pursue their career goals. These services include:

- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities *who are potentially eligible* for ACCES-VR services
- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities *who are determined eligible* for ACCES-VR services
- VR services needed for an individual to obtain, maintain, or advance in a job for students *who are determined eligible*

Pre-ETS

- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities provide information on career options, education and skills training for students ages 14–22 who are **potentially eligible** or **eligible** for ACCES-VR services.
- Pre-ETS align with evidence-based predictors of postsecondary success.
- The goal of Pre-ETS is to help students with disabilities achieve an early, solid foundation that will lead them to successful competitive integrated employment and independence.

The Five Pre-ETS

**Job
Exploration
Counseling**

**Work-Based
Learning
Experiences
(WBLEs)**

**Counseling on
Opportunities
for Enrollment
in
Postsecondary
Education**

**Workplace
Readiness
Training**

**Instruction in
Self-Advocacy
Counseling**

Job Exploration Counseling Activities



Discussion or counseling on the results of some of these activities can help to identify viable career options or solidify careers that a student will want to explore further.

Work-Based Learning Experience (WBLE)

- Job shadowing
- Career mentorship
- Paid and non-paid internships
- Informational interviews
- Practicum
- Service learning
- Student-led enterprises
- Career-related competitions
- Simulated workplace experience
- Paid work experience
- Non-paid work experience
- Volunteering
- Workplace tours/field trips

Counseling on Postsecondary Options

The formal name of this service is:

- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs
- Student exploration and planning on a variety of postsecondary education and training opportunities



Workplace Readiness Training

Workplace readiness skills are sometimes called:

- Soft skills
- Employability skills
- Job readiness skills



Instruction in Self-Advocacy

- Self-awareness
- Understanding of disability
- Disability disclosure
- Decision making
- Goal setting
- Evaluating options
- Identifying independence
- Reasonable accommodations
- Request and utilize accommodations
- Knowing your rights and responsibilities
- Self-determination
- Know how to request and accept help
- Intrinsic motivation
- Taking a leadership role
- Support plans
- Assertiveness
- Listening to other's opinions
- Problem solving
- Monitoring progress
- Positive self-talk

Students Potentially Eligible and Eligible for ACCES-VR



**Potentially Eligible
Students:**
May receive Pre-ETS

Eligible Students:
May receive Pre-ETS **AND/OR**
may receive VR services
needed to obtain a job

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- High school-to-work transition services
- Job counseling
- Job assessment and development
- Job placement
- Vocational or technical training
- BOCES or other classroom training
- Books and tools
- Supported employment
- Occupational license
- Vehicle modifications
- Self-employment
- Rehabilitation technology
- Job coaching
- College training
- Driver training
- And many more!

Being eligible for ACCES-VR services does not mean individuals are eligible to receive *ALL* ACCES-VR services.

Services for ACCES-VR Eligible Individuals

Pre-ETS

- Only for students with a disability ages 14–22
- Services:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-Based Learning Experiences
 - Counseling on postsecondary education options
 - Workplace readiness training
 - Instruction in self-advocacy

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Required to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment
- Secondary school examples: Vocational guidance and counseling, community work experiences, assessment for career planning
- Postsecondary examples: Job development, supported employment, training (vocational, college)

Referral Process



Referral to ACCES-VR vendor: Potentially eligible student (Pre-ETS ONLY)

- Students with a disability (14–22) enrolled in an educational program
- Would benefit from intro to pre-employment supports and group activities
- May not be appropriate for ACCES-VR services **or** not yet ready for VR services

Referral to ACCES-VR: Eligible student

- Students with a disability that may need more than Pre-ETS (e.g., VR services)
- **Students with a disability who are interested in identifying a career goal and accessing services required to achieve that goal and obtain a job**
- Students with a disability ready for more in-depth VR services

Sub-Minimum Wage Employment

Before a student with a disability is referred to a program or begins employment where the pay is less than minimum wage, please keep the following in mind:

- Federal legislation and regulations require that youth with disabilities are **provided information and choice about work in competitive integrated employment settings that pay at least minimum wage.**
- Historically, people with disabilities have not been provided enough information or opportunities to make an informed choice between a job that pays at least minimum wage and one that pays less than minimum wage.
- **Choice is not possible without knowing options exist.**

Federal Regulatory Requirements

Prior to employment at sub-minimum wage, youth (age 24 and under) must have:

1. Received Pre-ETS and/or transition services
2. Applied for ACCES-VR services
 - a) And were found ineligible **OR**
 - b) Were found eligible **AND** had an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) **AND** worked toward an IPE work goal for a reasonable amount of time without success **AND** the case was closed
3. Received Career Counseling and Information and Referral services (CC&I&R)

Responsibility for Subminimum Wage Regulations

- Programs that pay subminimum wage are responsible for:
 - Ensuring that individuals applying are aware of all the required regulatory requirements **prior to** employment. They must verify these requirements and keep documentation.
 - Following any state oversight entity requirements (e.g., Office of People with Developmental Disabilities [OPWDD], Office of Mental Health [OMH]).
- ACCES-VR is responsible for using a consistent eligibility determination process for all applications this:
 - Ensures equity in the determination of eligibility for VR services.
 - Provides information to all individuals about VR services available to support competitive integrated employment.
 - Use a trial work experience is needed to determine the individual's eligibility.

ACCES-VR Application and Eligibility Determination: Required Documents

Student, family, or school district

- ACCES-VR Application (VR-04)
- Consent to Release/Obtain Information Form (VR-21)
- Documentation of Disability
- <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services>

When to Apply for ACCES-VR Services?

Applications can be made **at any time from age 14 or older**, however, students with disabilities leaving secondary school are encouraged to apply **no later than the Fall prior** to graduation.



Resources

ACCES-VR: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr>

ACCES VR District Offices: <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>

[Apply for VR Services: http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services](http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services)

NTACT:C: <https://www.transitionta.org/>