

Transition 2 Go

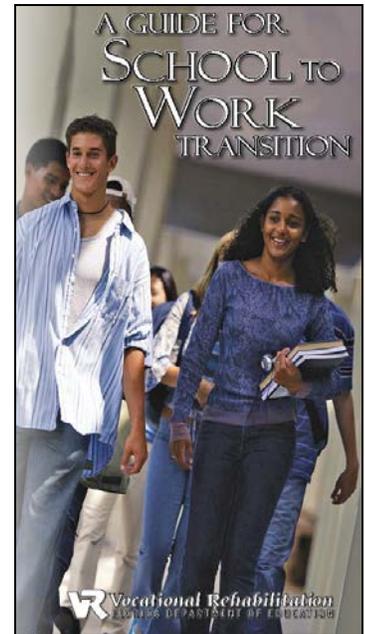
in Florida



School to Work Transition Vocational Training

Most teens and young adults look forward to having a job and being independent. For young Floridians with disabilities whose goals include employment, the Florida Department of Education's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) can provide critical support services. This federal-state program works with people who have physical or mental disabilities to prepare for, gain and/or retain employment.

Transition planning for individuals whose health conditions interfere with their ability to work should address eligibility for an array of VR programs, including the *School to Work Transition* program. The *School to Work Transition* program specifically helps students ages 16-22 prepare for employment and adult life. VR transition activities can help students enter training, continue education, and/or find a job after leaving high school.



Any student with a disability may be eligible for VR services starting at age 16. For students who receive special education services, schools often take the lead in referral to VR as part of the student's transition Individualized Education Plan (IEP). However, having an IEP is not a VR eligibility requirement. Students who may benefit from VR services should apply at least 2 years before leaving high school, e.g., apply at age 16 if leaving high school at age 18. VR can also assist students with community work experience while they are still in high school. Applications can be downloaded at <http://rehabworks.org/docs/VRapplication.rtf>.

VR referrals can be made by anyone by contacting the local VR office at www.rehabworks.org (click on VR Office Directory). To learn more about the *School to Work Transition* program, visit www.rehabworks.org/docs/SchooltoWork.pdf.

In addition to VR, [CareerSource Florida](http://www.careersourceflorida.com) offers job training for income eligible clients, including youth ages 14-21 ([WIA Youth Programs](http://www.careersourceflorida.com)) and individuals with disabilities. Eligibility requirements vary by local board, so interested persons should contact their local one-stop career center (see <http://careersourceflorida.com>).

For more information about this topic, visit the Tool Box at www.FloridaHATS.org or contact Janet Hess at jhess@health.usf.edu, (813) 259-8604