

Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS)

The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services works with many community partners and businesses to advocate and provide resources and services to improve the employment, quality of life, security, and independence of older individuals, individuals with disabilities, and their families.

What is the Division of Rehabilitative Services (DRS)?

The Division of Rehabilitative Services is a federal-state program that serves the population of DARS' consumers who have disabilities. This division offers a continuum of services to assist people to prepare for, find, or keep a job. DRS has approximately 30 offices across Virginia and each office has a counselor who specializes in supporting transition-aged students and youth as they move from high school to the world of work and adult life.

Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS):

Pre-ETS are the earliest set of services DRS offers to students with disabilities. Pre-ETS provide an early start at career exploration and preparation for adult life. Beginning at age 14, high school students with disabilities can connect with DARS for Pre-ETS. Topics covered through Pre-ETS include: career exploration; work-based learning experiences; exploration of postsecondary education and training opportunities; developing workplace, social and independent living skills; and self-advocacy.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Transition Services:

DRS collaborates with the public and private sectors to provide and advocate for the highest quality services that empower youth with disabilities to maximize their employment, independence, and full inclusion into society. If eligible for VR transition services, a DRS counselor will work with the youth, as well as the family and school, to develop an employment plan. This plan will include steps to help the youth achieve meaningful employment that leads to a successful career.

Who can receive Pre-ETS?

Students in high school or recognized post-secondary programs age 14 through 21 can receive needed Pre-ETS services if they are receiving special education or related services under Part B of

IDEA. For purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, an individual with a disability can receive needed Pre-ETS services.

Who is eligible for VR Transition Services?

Students or youth may be eligible for DARS' VR transition services if they have a goal to become employed in the community and have a physical, mental, emotional, sensory, or learning disability that interferes with their ability to find and keep a job.

Who should be referred to DARS?

- Students or youth with an Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan in need of services offered by DARS
- Students or youth who are not receiving accommodations in high school but may need them later for employment
- Students or youth with a disability who are at risk of dropping out of high school

What services can DARS provide?

- Pre-ETS
- Career counseling and guidance
- Vocational evaluation and assessment
- Assistive technology
- Situational assessment
- Job development
- Job coaching
- On the job training
- Training and education after high school
- Job placement, retention, and follow up

How can you be referred to or apply for DARS?

Contact the DARS office nearest you or call 1.800.552.5019. Any person may refer an individual for services. With parental consent, school personnel or another community-based service provider may refer a student to DARS.

For more information about DARS, visit vadars.org

8004 Franklin Farms Drive
Henrico, VA 23229
1.800.552.5019
TTY dial 711