



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT FOR AGING  
AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

## Division of Rehabilitative Services

**Connect**



**Explore**



**Prepare**



**Succeed**



**GET CONNECTED TO WORK AND LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**



**DARS**  
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Division of Rehabilitative Services

# In this orientation...

- **How VR can work for you?**
- **What services are available?**
- **How to apply for VR services?**
- **Who is eligible for VR services?**
- **Why VR is important in transition planning?**





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# How is VR involved in Transition Services?

- **Primary focus of DRS**
- **Federal and state program**
- **All school divisions have a VR counselor**



[www.vadars.org](http://www.vadars.org)



[facebook/vadars](https://facebook.com/vadars)

# The VR Process



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# The Referral Process

- Referral to DRS may be made by
  - The student
  - The student's family or guardian
  - School personnel
  - Community based service providers



**Get  
Connected**



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# Applying for Services



- Meet with a VR Counselor
- Complete the Application for VR Services
  - \* Parent or guardian signature needed if under 18 yrs old



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# Criteria for Eligibility

## Must:

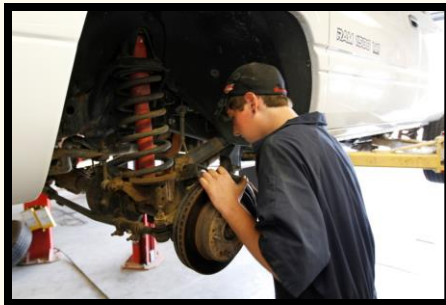
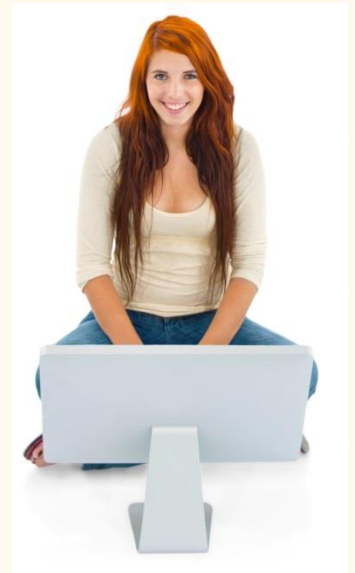
- ✓ Have a physical or mental disability that keeps you from getting or keeping a job
- ✓ Need VR services for an employment outcome
- ✓ Be legally eligible to work in the United States
- ✓ Be present in Virginia



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# Assessments

- Employment possibilities
- Strengths, preferences, interests, and needs
- Work skills



**Explore**

➤ Make an informed choice!



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# Assessments

- At DRS office or school
- Hands-on
- Determined mutually



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# Individualized Plan for Employment

- Written document to outline:
  - Employment goal
  - Steps and timeframe
  - Responsibilities
  - Services
  - Training
  - Supplies
  - Accommodations



*prepare*



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# Services

Career Guidance and Counseling

Assistive Technology

Vocational Evaluation and Assessment

Job Development

Career Exploration



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# Services

Job Shadowing

Job Coaching

On-the-Job Training (OJT)

Training and Education after High School

Job Placement



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# Social Security / Government Benefits



Do you have SSI or SSDI benefits?

Do you have food, housing, or medical assistance?



- Work Incentive Programs are available
- Work Incentives Specialists will help you
- Maximize your income!



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# Tips for You and Your Family

- **Start early!**
- **Advocate for yourself!**
- **Stay active!**
- **Communicate with your counselor!**
- **Ask questions!**



**Succeed**



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# Planning for the future should not be done for you but instead with you.

- Many community partners may work with you.



# Contact us



- Visit our website at [www.vadars.org](http://www.vadars.org)
  - View Virginia's DRS Transition Guide at <http://www.vadars.org/transitionservices.htm>
- Call us at 800-552-5019