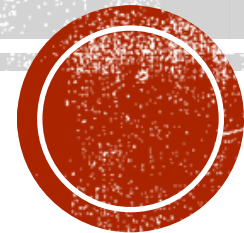
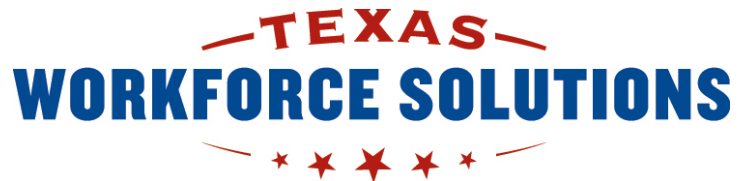


# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Transition Services – An Introduction



# INTRODUCTION

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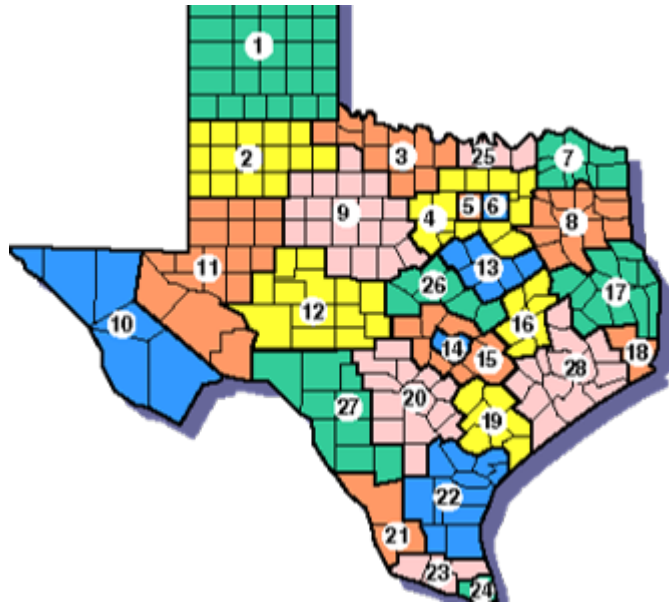
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# TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

- Workforce Development Boards



- Vocational Rehabilitation Division Regions



# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (VR) SERVICES

Purpose: to help people with disabilities obtain and maintain employment that is consistent with the strengths, interests, abilities, and aptitudes

- VR services are eligibility-based and tailored to the individual
- They are not intended to be emergency services
- They are not time-limited, but are not intended to be provided long-term
- They are arranged and provided by a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC), with consideration for individual choice



# ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The customer has a physical or mental impairment (first criterion);
- The impairment constitutes or results in a substantial impediment to employment (second criterion);
- The customer requires Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services to prepare for, enter, engage in, or advance in competitive integrated employment consistent with the customer's strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice (third criterion); and
- The customer can achieve an employment outcome, unless pre-eligibility trial work experiences demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the customer cannot achieve an employment outcome because of the severity of the customer's disability (fourth criterion).



# TRANSITION SERVICES

Transition services are a subset of Vocational Rehabilitation services for those individuals aged 14-22. Transition services are provided to help students with disabilities move from high school to successful work and independent living. VR provides these services to students while they are attending high school so they will be prepared when they exit.

In most cases, the services provided to students with disabilities fall into one of these 5 Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) categories:

1. Career Exploration
2. Work-Based Learning
3. Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities
4. Job Readiness
5. Self-Advocacy

Note: Vocational Rehabilitation services continue to be available after high school, if necessary.



# FIVE PRE-ETS SERVICES

## Pre-Employment Transition Services

### 1 CAREER EXPLORATION COUNSELING



Assist students in becoming aware of their own interests and abilities; and career opportunities in their local area through exposure that increases their motivation in preparing to work.

\* Examples: Texas OnCourse Tool; O'Net tool; Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI); Jobs Yall website; Person-Centered Employment Planning

### 2 WORK-BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES



Take place in a work environment setting using an educational instructional design to assist students with disabilities in obtaining knowledge and skills for future job opportunities.

\* Examples: Informational Interviews, Job Shadowing, Internships, Work-based Tours/Internships.

### 3 SELF-ADVOCACY INSTRUCTION



Direct students with disabilities in identifying their interests and desires and effectively communicating their wants, needs, and desires in school, at social/community events, or on the job. It teaches students about their rights, responsibilities, how to request accommodations or services, and supports transition planning.

\* Examples: Self Advocacy Curriculum, Job Accommodation Network (JAN).

### 4 COUNSELING ON POSTSECONDARY OPPORTUNITIES



Provides information on the variety of options available to students after graduation including colleges, universities, and training opportunities. This service may take place in a group setting and/or per individual.

\* Examples: Assist students in completing federal aid paperwork, budgeting for college classes, explore college programs.

### 5 WORKPLACE READINESS TRAINING



Offers students with disabilities an opportunity to obtain skills and behaviors that can be used in any job. Job readiness skills may include soft skills, employability skills, and job preparation skills.

\* Examples: Job club, mock interviews, transportation training, resume writing, support in completing job applications.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ucVa9bv6kQ>



# VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS

## **Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (TVRCs):**

- Assigned to various schools and spend most of their time on school campuses.

## **Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors (VRCs):**

- Counselors with general caseloads and high school liaison assignments.





# POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE

As a means to give access to Pre-ETS activities, some individuals will be able to participate as potentially eligible.

- Must meet the definition of student with a disability
- Not intended to circumvent the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) process - when it is realized that other services are needed, an application for services must be completed
- Services to this population are limited to Pre-Employment Transition Services



# HOW TO GET STARTED...

Work with your assigned VR counselor to refer students for services. If you aren't sure who the counselor is, call your nearest Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation (TWS-VRS) office or your area's Regional Transition Specialist (contact info on the next slide). For a list of TWS-VRS offices, visit: [texasworkforce.org/offices/vr-general-services.html](https://texasworkforce.org/offices/vr-general-services.html)

The counselor will schedule appointments at the school, in the Workforce Solutions office, or at other locations to complete the application for services.

The counselor will discuss the VR process with students and parents, which includes determining eligibility and, if eligible, assessment and planning for services.

For assistance in locating a VR office for vocational rehabilitation services, please email [vr.office.locator@twc.texas.gov](mailto:vr.office.locator@twc.texas.gov) or call (512) 936-6400 to be connected to VR staff.



# REGIONAL TRANSITION SPECIALISTS

## **Region 1- West Texas**

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## **Region 2- Dallas/Fort Worth**

Rosla Hocker

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## **Region 3- Central Texas**

Vacant

## **Region 4- East Texas**

Kirstin Johnson

903-504-9531

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## **Region 5- Houston**

Janeen Gordon

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[Janeen.Gordon@twc.texas.gov](mailto:Janeen.Gordon@twc.texas.gov)

## **Region 6- South Texas**

Rebecca Quintero

210-238-3592

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**QUESTIONS???**



# TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services

101 East 15th Street

Austin, Texas 78778-0001

800-628-5115

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 800-735-2989 (TTY) and 711 (Voice)

The Texas Workforce Commission accepts calls made through any relay service provider.



# FEDERAL FUNDING INFORMATION

- These activities are financed under the TWC Federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant. For the Federal fiscal year 2023 (October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023), TWC anticipates expending \$243,212,287 in Federal Vocational Rehabilitation funds. Funds appropriated by the State pay a minimum of 21.3% of the total costs (\$65,824,926) under the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Revised May 2023.
- For purposes of the Supported Employment program, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency receives 94.7 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2023 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded are \$1,482,250. The remaining 5.3 percent (\$82,347) are funded by Texas State Appropriations. Revised May 2023.
- For purposes of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals who are Blind program, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency receives 90 percent of its funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For the 2022 Federal fiscal year, the total amount of grant funds awarded are \$2,202,209. The remaining 10 percent (\$244,690) are funded by Texas State Appropriations. Revised May 2023.

