

Parent's Perspective

"PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL"

NEED MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TRANSITION PLANNING FOR YOUR CHILD WHO HAS AN IEP?

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CHILD WITH A DISABILITY WORKING AND RECEIVING SSI BENEFITS?

WHAT SERVICES CAN THE OFFICE FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION (OVR) OFFER TO PREPARE YOUR CHILD FOR A JOB?

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WHEN YOUR CHILD GRADUATES AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT ADULT SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE?



PARENT TRAINING
SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016
9:00 am to Noon
at the
NORTHWEST TRI-COUNTY IU5
252 WATERFORD ST
EDINBORO, PA 16412

TRAINING IS FREE TO ATTEND
REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED
PLEASE CALL MICHELE KULESZA
(814)734-5610, EXT. 7070
or email michele_kulesza@iu5.org
Please provide name, phone number and
school district child attends

The *Parent Support Center*
of the Northwest Tri-County
Intermediate Unit
(814) 734-5610, ext 7070 or
(800) 677-5610, ext 7070
www.iu5.org/parentsupport
michele_kulesza@iu5.org



Dear Parents,

The Parent Support Center is staffed by myself, Michele Kulesza. I am a parent of a child with special needs and can serve as a facilitator between parents and educators. I have been through many of the same concerns that other parents of children with special needs have been through.

If you need support or have any questions or concerns, please contact me at the Parent Support Center, (814) 734-5610, ext. 7070 or toll-free (800) 677-5610, ext. 7070

Michele Kulesza

It is the policy of the Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit not to discriminate on the basis of age, religion, sex, race, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, or non-job related disability (including sexual harassment, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression), in the admission or access to, or in the provision of services, programs, or employment in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 1604 of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246 and 11375, Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act. For information relevant to this policy statement, contact: Dr. Dean Maynard, 504 Coordinator and ADA Coordinator, or Abigail Stafford, Title IX Coordinator 252 Waterford Street, Edinboro, PA 16412 Phone (814) 734-5610 TDD (814) 734-1098

OVR: SCHOOL TO WORK FACTS AND QUESTIONS

What is School to Work Transition?

School to Work Transition serves as a bridge between school and adult work life. It helps prepare youth and young adults with disabilities for life after high school.

When does it start and who should apply?

OVR may accept referrals of youth and young adults with disabilities at least two years prior to graduation, or earlier on a case by case basis when appropriate. Any youth or young adult with any type of disability who may need vocational guidance and assistance in preparing for, obtaining or maintaining competitive employment should consider applying for OVR services.

How do I become involved?

A youth or young adult with an IEP, 504 plan or a disability can refer themselves for vocational rehabilitation services. A parent/guardian/advocate or school personnel can also initiate the referral. If you are under the age of 18, you must have the permission of a parent/guardian to become involved with OVR services. A vocational counselor will review the referral and set up an interview to complete an application and determine if you meet the eligibility requirements.

OVR Eligibility and Order of Selection Requirements?

Vocational rehabilitation is an eligibility-based program. You must meet certain criteria to qualify for services. Your counselor will review the information and determine whether a disability exists and whether the disability substantially interferes with your ability to prepare for, get or keep a job. There must be a demonstrated need for OVR services in order for you to successfully pursue or retain employment. Currently, PA-OVR may only serve individuals with the "Most Significant Disabilities." To meet the criteria, the OVR Counselor determines if the individual's disability significantly limits at least three areas of functional capacity, including mobility, self-care, work tolerance, interpersonal skills, work skills, communication, and self-direction.

Is there a financial component?

Yes. The OVR Financial Needs Test determines the extent to which an eligible youth or young adult with disabilities and his/her family may be required to contribute toward the cost of certain OVR services. Diagnostic and evaluation services, vocational counseling and guidance, rehabilitative teaching, orientation and mobility training and job placement assistance are provided regardless of the student's and/or family's income.

What other types of services are available?

OVR provides services to assist a youth or young adult with disabilities obtain the job skills needed to attain self sufficiency. These may include post secondary education or training, on the job training, apprenticeship or job placement with an employer.

How is this achieved?

The counselor meets with the youth or young adult with disabilities and prepares an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE). The IPE is designed to meet the individual's unique vocational strengths and needs, interests and abilities. The IPE and the IEP should be complementary and unified. The IPE will recognize the IEP's vocational outcome as well as the services and service providers that will assist the individual to reach his/her specific vocational goal.

What happens when I leave school?

The OVR counselor will work with you to obtain and maintain competitive employment. This goal is achieved when you are working in a community-integrated setting earning at least minimum wage. OVR services are complete when you achieve your vocational goal and are successfully employed for at least 90 days, after which your case is closed. If necessary, post-employment services may be available.

ERIE Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

3200 Lovell Place • Erie, PA 16503

814.871.4551 • 1.888.217.1710 TTY • 1.800.541.0721

COUNTIES SERVED: Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango, Warren
