



VocREHAB VT YOUTH INITIATIVES

Supporting Youth in High School and Beyond

DAIL Advisory Board- June 2021



SHIFT OF VR TRANSITION PROGRAM “TRANSITION OF TRANSITION”

- **Transition Counselors:** In transition to now serve youth 14 through 24 years old (Transition of Transition); manages referrals and relationships with high schools; the “hub”.
- **Youth Employment Specialists:** Paired 1:1 with Transition Counselor to serve the same students; WBL/Work readiness activities.
- **Business Account Manager:** Establish and maintain employer relationships; facilitates Creative Workforce Solutions meetings that pulls together all partners connecting with the business community.
- **Depending upon student, may also include Job Coach and/or Benefits Counselor**



GOALS OF TRANSITION OF TRANSITION

- **To facilitate a positive transition to adult life for youth (and families) through consistency in staff providing services.**
- **To increase the number of students receiving Pre-Employment Transition Services.**
- **To increase the number of students who continue working with VR post-graduation or upon leaving school.**
- **To expand and enhance our collaboration with high school and career center teams.**



PROGRAM SHIFT PROVIDES MORE WAYS TO PARTNER

- **Increase the connection between school employment coordinators/work-based learning coordinators and Creative Workforce Solutions/Business Account Managers.**
- **Increase the connections between VR staff and the school guidance counselors, especially in referring students on 504s and around post-secondary exploration/support.**
- **Enhance relationships with families as they navigate services for youth outside of high school.**
- **Increase/enhance collaboration via Core Transition Teams to ensure that students engage, imagine, and achieve their career goals.**



VR SUMMER CAREER EXPLORATION PROGRAM

- **Serves HS students statewide, ages 14 through 21 (including students graduating in June 2021) on an IEP or 504**
- **249 students with disabilities, who demonstrate very diverse levels of skills and abilities, applied for the program.**
- **Students statewide will engage in work site training opportunities to explore their top career interests at local businesses, while also learning work readiness skills in a classroom.**
- **Students will earn minimum wage for both the work and classroom components.**
- **VR is committed to provide opportunities for all students who want to participate this summer, including an online *Introduction to College and Careers* course and virtual presentations on a range of careers.**
- **Students have expressed interest in exploring careers like animal care, automotive technology, parks and recreation, and hospitality.**



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST (YES) IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

- **Increase the number of students on IEPs and 504s receiving career exploration and work-based learning opportunities (helps meet transition plan goals)**
- **Increase the number of competitive employment or work-based learning experiences for students with disabilities prior to high school exit.**
- **Enhance School – VR Partnerships (learn best practice)**
- **Link students to Vocational Rehabilitation early and establish the working relationship to reach beyond high school**



YOUTH EMPLOYMENT SPECIALIST (YES) IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

- **Collaborate with 4 high schools statewide that applied for the funding**
- **Provides a full-time youth employment specialist (YES) to implement Pre-Employment Transition Services:**
 - **Work-Based learning**
 - **Word Readiness Skills**
 - **Career Exploration**
- **Funding covers the position in full for the first two years, and then decreases to 50%, then 25%, for the third and fourth year.**
- **Priority given to schools that demonstrated sustainability plans.**
- **Starts this upcoming 2021-2022 school year.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME AND ATTENTION!!

VocRehabVermont
A PROUD PARTNER OF CREATIVE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



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