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## DOR Student Services

State Rehabilitation Council Meeting

December 1, 2022

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## What are DOR Student Services?

* Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) emphasizes pre-employment transition services to students with disabilities.
* DOR Student Services represent the early set of services on the continuum of services, intended to maximize early job exploration and career development opportunities to prepare students for and achieve employment outcomes in competitive integrated employment.
* WIOA requires that VR agencies reserve at least 15 percent of its federal VR grant funds to provide or arrange for the provision of DOR Student Services to all students with disabilities.

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## Who is a Student with a Disability?

A student with a disability is an individual who is:

1. Age 16 through 21 years old.
2. Enrolled in secondary, postsecondary, or other recognized education program.
3. One or more of the following:
	* Eligible for and receiving special education or related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
	* An individual with a disability for purposes of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, either has or is eligible for a 504 plan.

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## DOR Student Services

DOR Student Services include five pre-employment transition services:

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Work-based Learning Experiences
3. Postsecondary Counseling
4. Workplace Readiness Training
5. Instruction on Self-Advocacy

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## Job Exploration Counseling

A variety of activities to help students with career-related research, including:

* Exploring in-demand industry sectors and occupations, as well as nontraditional employment.
* Completing vocational interest inventories.
* Exploring the labor market that applies to students’ particular interests.
* Identifying career pathways of interest.

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## Work-Based Learning Experiences

Opportunities available during/after school or outside traditional school setting, including:

* + Informational interviews to research employers.
	+ Work-site tours to learn about necessary job skills.
	+ Job shadowing.
	+ Mentoring opportunities.
	+ On-site work-based experiences (paid or unpaid), e.g., internships, apprenticeships, volunteering, or on-the-job trainings.

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## Postsecondary Counseling

A variety of activities to support student success in college, vocational, or trade school, including:

* Exploring the types of academic and occupational training (public and private colleges, vocational, trade school, military) needed to succeed in the workplace.
* Discovering postsecondary opportunities associated with career fields or pathways.
* Advising students and parents or representatives on academic curricula and course offerings.

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## Workplace Readiness Training

A variety of activities to help students develop social skills and independent living skills necessary for employment, including:

* Learning communication and interpersonal skills.
* Gaining or expanding financial literacy, including limited student work incentive planning services specific to work experience.
* Orientation and mobility skills and travel training to access workplace readiness training or to learn to travel independently.

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## Instruction in Self-Advocacy

A variety of activities to help students feel comfortable and empowered to communicate their strengths, abilities, interest, and needs in education and at the workplace, including:

* Learning about rights and responsibilities in educational and workplace settings.
* Learning how to request accommodations, services, or supports.
* Practicing communicating thoughts, concerns, and needs.

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## Providing DOR Student Services

DOR works collaboratively with education and other partners to ensure statewide provision of DOR Student Services.

Provided through:

* Purchased case services from community service providers.
* Cooperative program partnerships with educational programs.
* “In-house” by student services team member or other DOR staff

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## Auxiliary Aids and Services

Goods and services that allow students with disabilities with sensory and communicative impairments who need such aids and services to have equal access to information, materials, services, and activities.

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## Additional Accommodations and Supports

Accommodations or supports for students with disabilities beyond the scope of auxiliary aids and services can be provided through the VR program.

End of presentation.