

YOUR RIGHTS AS A TRANSITION-AGED YOUTH

You have the right to choose your employment goal.

You have the right to participate in planning how to achieve your employment goal.

You have the right to ask for goods and services that will assist you in reaching your employment goal.

If you are denied goods and services, you have the right to appeal.



WHEN YOU NEED MORE HELP:

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) at Disability Rights New Mexico can help you advocate for your Transition Services.

Contact us:



Call us: 505-256-3100

Visit us online:

www.drnmm.org

Come see us!

3916 Juan Tabo Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87111

Monday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

TRANSITION SERVICES

for students with disabilities

**Planning for life
after high school**



**DISABILITY RIGHTS
NEW MEXICO**

WHAT ARE TRANSITION SERVICES?

Transition Services are supports and resources for youth with disabilities 14-22 years old. The purpose of Transition Services is to help you explore and plan for your employment after the high school years.

Transition Services are focused upon helping you reach your employment goal, whatever that may be. Transition Services help you decide upon an employment goal, and then support you with a plan to reach that goal.

WHERE CAN I GET TRANSITION SERVICES?

Transition Services may be provided by two different groups of people. First, they may be provided by a person at your public school called a **Transition Specialist**. This is called **School-Based Transition Services**. The Transition Specialist will attend your IEP meetings, meet with you privately, help you plan your class schedule, and look for work opportunities in your community.

Secondly, Transition Services may be provided by the **New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)** or the **Commission for the Blind (CFB)**. This is called **Community-Based Transition services**.

You will be assigned a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) at DVR or CFB who helps you plan for your future after high school. You meet with your VRC at their office and communicate by phone or email.

EXAMPLES OF TRANSITION SERVICES

- a career interest inventory to help you decide upon a professional pathway.
- helping you to develop an employment goal that includes concrete steps to achieve that goal.
- assistive technology such as a tablet, computer, mobility aids or communication devices to help you achieve your employment goal.
- costs associated with college or vocational training, such as the cost of tuition, books, transportation, etc.
- costs required to start a new job, like paying for a uniform, bus pass, or having a vehicle modified for your transportation needs.

HOW DO I QUALIFY FOR TRANSITION SERVICES?

If you have an Individualized Education Program (IEP), you qualify for Transition Services from your school. You may also qualify to get them from DVR or CFB.

If you are ages 14-22 and have a disability but no IEP, you may still qualify for Transition Services from DVR or CFB.

You do not have to be attending school to qualify for Transition Services from DVR or CFB.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

If you're in school and have an IEP, ask your Special Education teacher who your school Transition Specialist is. Ask them to set up an appointment to talk about services. You can also ask other people listed in your IEP for help.

If your school does not have a Transition Specialist, call DVR at 800-224-7005 or visit www.dvr.state.nm.us. If you think you qualify for CFB, call CFB at (505) 841-8844. They will help you find the closest office and explain how to apply for services.

WHAT IF PEOPLE THINK I CAN'T WORK?

If you want to work, you can work. You have the right to choose your own job. Your choice may be based upon your interests, strengths, abilities, and desires. Your Transition Specialist and VRC are required to help you plan your employment pathway. They are here to remove obstacles that keep you from being employed.

