



PREPARING FOR THE IEP MEETING: FOR VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION COUNSELORS

As a vocational rehabilitation counselor, you have valuable perspectives and insights to offer when discussing transition topics during IEP meetings. This planning sheet will help you know what to expect and how you can contribute.

What Should I Know About the IEP Meeting?

- All students who receive special education services have an Individualized Education Program (IEP). This document includes information on how students are doing in their classes, their annual educational goals, and accommodations/modifications needed to help students make progress.
- Beginning with the first IEP to be in effect after the student turns 14, IEPs and meetings will begin to focus on the student's goals for after high school in education/training, employment, and independent living.
- IEP team members include the student, his/her parents or guardians, their special education teacher, general education teachers, a school administrator, and representatives from adult disability service agencies including yourself. Other team members might include a speech, occupational, or physical therapist, and/or guidance counselor. The student can invite anyone important to them who can provide relevant information related to post school goals.
- Members of the team will vary depending on the individual student's needs.
- The team will identify goals and services that will help the student achieve those outcomes, and keep track of the student's progress on those goals.
- Each team member will have individual responsibilities and things they can do to contribute.
- Students should make connections with Vocational Rehabilitation early in the transition planning process.

How Can I Help?

- Provide information about funding and eligibility requirements for your program.
- Share policies and procedures of VR, including roles and responsibilities of the student.
- Facilitate referral to VR.
- Create an individual employment plan and collaborate with the school and other service providers to ensure



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

the student's vocational goals are being met.

- Arrange for VR services, including:
 - Job exploration counseling
 - Work-based learning experiences
 - Workplace readiness training focused on developing social skills and independent living skills
 - Counseling on postsecondary opportunities
 - Self-advocacy instruction
- Provide information to the family about what services different state and local agencies can provide.
- Share examples of success stories from individuals who have used VR services so families and students can see what's possible.
- Provide input on vocationally-related transition assessments.