



# Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services

*Providing the freedom to live*

Transition Services Program

*“WORKING IN PARTERSHIP TO CREATE  
BRIGHTER FUTURES FOR OUR YOUTH”*



**2013 TRANSITION SYMPOSIUM**  
**Baton Rouge, LA**

# Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

## Vocational Rehabilitation

- Through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), the Mississippi Department of Rehab Services (MDRS) provides services designed to improve economic opportunities for individuals with physical and mental disabilities through employment.

## Transition Services

- Transition Services are planned services that help students with disabilities gain knowledge, skills, experience, and resources which help them transition to post secondary outcomes.

# Working with the Department of Education

## Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- MOU with the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE)
- Mandated by Rehab Act of 1973, as amended, Carl D Perkins Act, and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

## Agreements of Cooperation

- Arrangements between MDRS, VR district offices and local school districts
- Specifies the role of each entity

## Transition Specialist Contracts

- Co-funded position which is open to each school district
- Supervised by VR counselor for specified duties

# Transition

# or Mixed

- Training specific for serving youth
- Can work around the school's schedule
- Can attend more IEP meetings
- Primary focus is on high schools and students

- Non-specific training for serving youth
- Less flexibility with school's scheduling
- Can attend fewer IEP meetings
- Varied focus is on general cases, other cases, and students

# Counselor Services to Students

- Attend Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Meetings
- Career Exploration and Employability Skills Program
- Vocational Evaluation
- Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE)
- Job Readiness Training
- Counseling and Guidance
- Job Placement
- Other Services

# Student May Benefit From...

- Career Counseling
- Resume Preparation
- College Day
- Mock Interviews
- Job Shadowing
- Corporate Site Visits
- WIN Job-Center Tours
- Vocational/Career Games
- Employer Panels

# Transition Retreat









# The Transition Specialist

The co-funded Transition Specialist works in cooperation with the VR counselor, school district personnel, community based agencies, and business members. The Transition Specialist provides active supports to students with various disabilities both at the school and job site.

# Transition Specialist Duties

- Gather and Review Student Information
- Observe a Student in Various Settings
- Contact Employers/Maintain Database
- Teach Work Related Materials
- Know and Establish Natural Supports
- Job Placement
- Provide Monthly Reports to the VR Counselor

# Where are the Jobs









# MDE/MDRS Transition Conference

- Collaborative multi-day Conference
- Staff from both agencies make up the planning committee
- Target superintendents, principals, teacher, counselors and other school personnel, rehabilitation counselors, community rehabilitation programs, advocates, and other professional/paraprofessional who work with youth

# **MDE/MDRS Secondary Transition Training Collaboration**

- Cross-training
- Held at various locations
- Agenda is repeated each time
- Target various school district personnel and MDRS personnel

# Common Mistakes to Avoid When Working with Youth

- Failure to involve youth in their future
- Failure to establish a relationship
- Failure to work with youth on selecting a feasible educational, training, or vocational goal
- Failure to teach youth how to self-advocate

# **Presenter Contact Information**

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