

Vocational Rehabilitation

Youth Services talking points

August 15, 2024

This document contains information and talking points to guide your conversations with families about the changes to VR Youth Services and the Youth Transition Program in schools.

The program name and approach to how VR delivers youth services have changed.

- “Youth Transition Program (YTP)” is now referred to as “VR Youth Services,” which includes Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS).
- VR Youth Services provides the same types of services that YTP provided. Services are for students across Oregon who have disabilities and are ages 14 to 21.
- Most of the change is happening behind the scenes regarding how VR tracks and reports services provided.
- Services may be provided by either VR staff or contracted school staff.
- The frequency of interaction with the youth services provider will be individualized for each student’s needs.
- Because of the changes, VR will be able to serve more students throughout the state across a longer period of time.

These changes are in response to federal requirements.

A federal audit of the youth program highlighted a need to change how VR tracks and reports services to youth.

Students and families must request Pre-Employment Transition Services.

- All students and their families who were receiving services through YTP must complete a [Request for Pre-Employment Transition Services](#), also called the Request for Pre-ETS, and email it to pre.ets@odhsoha.oregon.gov or hand to their provider.
- Services will not resume until after VR receives and processes the form.
- The form asks students and families what Pre-ETS they would like to receive. They can check a box indicating their areas of interest.
- Once VR receives a new Request for Pre-ETS, families can expect to hear from VR youth services staff within two weeks.
- Services may be scheduled within weeks or several months out depending on factors such as student need and schedule for time-specific services like workshops.

As a starting point, VR Youth Services provides a specific set of services to students.

- These are known as Pre-Employment Transition Services. Youth services providers are only allowed to provide services that fall within these categories:
 - Explore different job and career options (Job Exploration Counseling)
 - Practical work experience (Work-based Learning Experience)
 - Explore college or training programs (Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or post-secondary education programs at institutes of higher education)
 - Learn skills to prepare for work (Workplace Readiness Training)
 - Learn how to ask for what you need (Instruction in self-advocacy)
- Pre-ETS are short-term services that are provided intermittently. They are in addition to services provided by schools.

Additional information about VR Youth Services

- Families can invite their VR Counselor or Pre-ETS Coordinator to their IEP meetings. (Reminder: Contracted providers cannot serve as a representative of VR)
- Additional services are available for students who become VR clients. Students and their families will need to apply for services by contacting their [local VR office](#).
- VR's [Your Partner in Employment handout](#) (also available in [other languages](#)) has information for families about general VR services.

Questions

Families can contact their youth services provider with questions.

- [List of VR Pre-Employment Transition Services Coordinators and Youth Services Coordinators](#)
- [VR Youth Services Website](#)
- [Sign up for email updates from VR](#)

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