

Life After IDEA—Tips to Help Students Prepare for Postsecondary Activities

Students leaving high school are moving from an environment that is structured to “ensure student success” to one that is designed to “allow equal access.”

Unlike IDEA, postsecondary education students with disabilities are not entitled to services but can request reasonable accommodations. It becomes the responsibility of the students to:

- identify themselves as having a disability;
- provide documentation of their disability; and
- request accommodations and services supported by the documentation.

How DVR can Help

- DVR can build on the self-advocacy training provided by the school to ensure the student understands their disability enough to explain it to others in order to achieve success in the environment of postsecondary education and the “working world.”
- DVR can provide the documentation required by postsecondary education/training institutions and pay for assessments. An individualized education plan (IEP) or Section 504 accommodation plan may help identify services that have been effective in high school, but this is generally not sufficient documentation for postsecondary education.
- DVR can help identify reasonable accommodations such as academic adjustment and assistive technology the student will need to be successful in postsecondary education/training and/or employment.
- DVR can often provide students with items specific to their postsecondary needs, such as tutoring, assistive technology devices, and computers and related equipment.

How to Connect a Student to DVR

The “Transition Tools for Teachers” web page, www.labor.state.ak.us/dvr/transition.htm contains specific referral guidance information and the Secondary Transition Referral Form.

The [Referral Guidance](#) is an easy to use tool that allows the IEP team, school nurse, shop teacher, or anyone involved with the student, to determine if a student might benefit from a referral for DVR services. If a youth has been identified as having a disability (e.g. special education, section 504 plan) or is suspected to have a disability and appears appropriate for our program, the [“Secondary Transition Referral Form”](#) can be filled out and sent to the DVR office serving your school. Contact information is available on the Transition Tools for Teachers web page.

Get More Tools

Sign up to receive a DVR transition tool each month from the DVR Transition Shop at www.labor.state.ak.us/dvr/transition.htm