

# NAVIGATING ADULT CAREER & CONTINUING EDUCATION SERVICES (ACCES-VR)

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ADULT CAREER & CONTINUING ED SERVICES

# WHAT IS ACCES-VR?

**ACCES-VR stands for Adult Career & Continuing Education Services:**

**It is an agency through the New York State Education Department that offers vocational/career assistance to eligible adults of all ages, backgrounds and disabilities toward the goal of employment.**



# AM I ELIGIBLE FOR ACCES-VR SERVICES?

If you answer YES to ANY of the following questions you might be eligible for ACCES-VR:

1. Do you have an Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?
2. Do you have a 504 Accommodation Plan?
3. Do you see a physician or therapist for a specific medical condition?
4. Do you receive any of the following academic accommodations:  
Resource Room, Extra Time for Tests, Separate Testing Location?



# WHY DO I NEED ACCES-VR SERVICES?

**That will be up to you and your parent/guardian, but here are some services that ACCES-VR provides financial assistance toward:**

**Driving Lessons Toward Getting Your License**

**Diagnostic Vocational Evaluation (Career Assessment)**

**Pre-Employment Transition Services**

**Career/Technical Training**

**College**

**Job Placement**

**Job Coaching/Supported Employment**



# WHAT DO I NEED TO APPLY FOR ACCES-VR SERVICES?

**In order to apply for services you'll need to make sure you meet the following criteria and provide the information below:**

- 1. You must be in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade or age 16 at the time of your application**
- 2. You and your parent or guardian must complete an ACCES-VR Application**
- 3. You must have either your IEP, 504 Plan, Psychological Testing, or Medical Records to document your disability**





**An intake meeting will take place between you, your parents and the ACCES-VR  
Counselor either:**

**Here at the High School**

**OR**

**Your Local ACCES-VR District Office**

# WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE INTAKE MEETING WITH ACCES-VR?

**ACCES-VR policy will be discussed and how it specifically relates to helping you in your future career plans.**

## **REMEMBER:**

- 1. To be your own advocate! Discuss your career interests instead of allowing your parent/guardian to speak for you.**
- 2. Write down questions that you may have for the ACCES-VR Counselor ahead of time**
- 3. Bring a pen/paper to take notes**



# ACCES-VR MADE ME ELIGIBLE FOR SERVICES. NOW WHAT DO I DO?

**Remember that ACCES-VR is an eligibility service. You will be developing your goal and plan for employment with your counselor. It is up to you to maintain contact with your assigned counselor consistently during and after high school graduation in order to receive assistance for trade/technical school, college and job placement services.**





# HOW CAN ACCES-VR HELP ME WHILE I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL?

## Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- **Post-Secondary Counseling for Students** - To provide students with counseling related to education options after high school;
- **Job Exploration Counseling for Students** - To provide students with counseling related to careers options after high school;
- **Self-Advocacy for Students** – To develop self-advocacy skills;
- **Work Readiness for Students** – To enhance career exploration and develop soft skills;
- **Work-Based Learning Development for Students** – To develop an internship, work try-out or work-based learning experience. Work-Based Learning Development may be used as a stand-alone service;
- **Work-Based Learning Experience for Students** – To assist with paid work experience in instances where the employer is unable to place the student on his/her payroll; and
- **Work-Based Coaching Supports for Students (for employment)** – To provide coaching for supports youth engaged in paid work experiences.



# I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO AFTER HIGH SCHOOL. HOW CAN ACCES-VR HELP ME?

**It is OK if you don't know what you want to do career wise after high school.**

**However, you need to discuss participating in a Diagnostic Vocational Evaluation (DVE) also known as a Career Assessment.**

**A Career Assessment is:**

- **Typically 5 to 10 days**
- **Tests your academic and hands-on skills**
- **Tests your interests to find out what careers match your personality traits**

**A CAREER ASSESSMENT IS SOMETHING THAT YOU CANNOT PASS OR FAIL**



# CAN ACCESS-VR PAY FOR DRIVING LESSONS?

In order to be eligible for driving lessons you **MUST** meet the following criteria:

- Hold a valid NYS Learner's Permit
- Have access to a parent/guardian's vehicle to practice driving
- Meet Economic Need
- Senior or in your final year of High School
- Employed or Pursuing an Employment Goal that Requires a Driver's License
- Document why you cannot pursue the High School Driver's Education Program



# DRIVING LESSONS CONTINUED

Please be aware of the following related to driving lessons:

ACCES-VR can provide assistance with the 5 Hour Course, a maximum of 40 Driving Lessons, Road Test Fee and the Car Fee for the Road Test (They can provide for at least one road test retake).

Once you pass a road test, ACCES-VR will not provide additional driving lessons.

Keep in mind that you will have a NYS Junior License until age 18. The only way to obtain a FULL License prior to 18 is to complete an approved NYS Driver Education Course.

For more information about Junior License Restrictions [CLICK HERE](#)



# I WANT TO ATTEND TRADE SCHOOL. HOW CAN ACCES-VR HELP ME?

**WITHOUT LOOKING AT YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN'S FINANCIAL SITUATION ACCES-VR CAN PROVIDE UP TO \$8,000 TOWARD THE TUITION COST OF TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL**



# I PLAN TO GO TO COLLEGE. HOW CAN ACCES-VR HELP ME?

## **COLLEGE FUNDING FROM ACCES-VR IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- **YOU HAVE A CAREER GOAL THAT REQUIRES COLLEGE ATTENDANCE**
- **YOU ARE TAKING A FULL-TIME (12 CREDITS OR MORE) NON-REMEDIAL COURSE SCHEDULE**
- **BASED ON REVIEW OF YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN'S FINANCIAL RECORDS YOU MEET ECONOMIC NEED**



**COLLEGE**

A decorative graphic at the bottom of the slide. It features a dark blue pennant pointing to the right with the word "COLLEGE" written in bold, yellow, sans-serif capital letters. The pennant is set against a white background. To the left of the pennant are two overlapping geometric shapes: a light blue triangle and an orange triangle. To the right of the pennant is a solid light blue rectangle.

# WHAT IS ECONOMIC NEED AND HOW DOES IT AFFECT MY ACCES-VR FUNDING?

**ECONOMIC NEED IS A REVIEW OF YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN'S FINANCIAL RECORDS (USUALLY THEIR TAX RETURN AND BANK ACCOUNT STATEMENTS) THAT IS DONE EVERY YEAR BY ACCES-VR**

**JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T MEET ECONOMIC NEED DOESN'T MEAN THAT ACCES-VR CAN'T HELP YOU IN SOME WAY**



# ECONOMIC NEED AT A GLANCE

## SERVICES BASED ON ECONOMIC NEED

COLLEGE FUNDING

TRANSPORTATION  
REIMBURSEMENT

PURCHASE OF CLOTHING

EQUIPMENT & TOOLS

SMALL BUSINESS FUNDING

DRIVING LESSONS

## SERVICES NOT BASED ON ECONOMIC NEED

CAREER ASSESSMENT

PRE-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DIRECT JOB PLACEMENT

JOB COACHING/SUPPORTED  
EMPLOYMENT

TRADE/TECHNICAL SCHOOL



Questions?

