GET CONNECTED TO WORK AND LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
In this orientation...

- How VR can work for you?
- What services are available?
- How to apply for VR services?
- Who is eligible for VR services?
- Why VR is important in transition planning?
How is VR involved in Transition Services?

• **Primary focus of DRS**
• **Federal and state program**
• **All school divisions have a VR counselor**
The VR Process

1. Referral
2. Application
3. Eligibility
4. Assessments
5. Employment Plan
6. Success!
The Referral Process

- Referral to DRS may be made by
  - The student
  - The student’s family or guardian
  - School personnel
  - Community based service providers
Applying for Services

- Meet with a VR Counselor
- Complete the Application for VR Services
  * Parent or guardian signature needed if under 18 yrs old
Criteria for Eligibility

Must:

☑ Have a physical or mental disability that keeps you from getting or keeping a job
☑ Need VR services for an employment outcome
☑ Be legally eligible to work in the United States
☑ Be present in Virginia
Assessments

- Employment possibilities
- Strengths, preferences, interests, and needs
- Work skills

➢ Make an informed choice!
Assessments

- At DRS office or school
- Hands-on
- Determined mutually
Individualized Plan for Employment

- Written document to outline:
  - Employment goal
  - Steps and timeframe
  - Responsibilities
  - Services
  - Training
  - Supplies
  - Accommodations
Services

- Career Guidance and Counseling
- Assistive Technology
- Vocational Evaluation and Assessment
- Job Development
- Career Exploration
# Services

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Social Security / Government Benefits

Do you have SSI or SSDI benefits?
Do you have food, housing, or medical assistance?

➢ Work Incentive Programs are available
➢ Work Incentives Specialists will help you
➢ Maximize your income!
Tips for You and Your Family

- Start early!
- Advocate for yourself!
- Stay active!
- Communicate with your counselor!
- Ask questions!
Planning for the future should not be done for you but instead with you.

- Many community partners may work with you.
Contact us

• Visit our website at www.vadars.org

• Call us at 800-552-5019