

THE DEPARTMENT OF ASSISTIVE AND REHABILITATIVE SERVICES

SCHOOL TRANSITION PROGRAM

There are several ways you can reach DARS to apply for services if you do not apply through a DARS Counselor at your school. First, try calling your local Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) office. It is listed in the government section of your telephone directory. If there is no listing and you wish to locate the DARS office nearest you, please contact one of the offices listed below.

You may also call the DARS information and Referral Line at 1-800-628-5115 to speak to a member of the DARS Inquiries Unit or call the Client Assistance Program (CAP) at 1-800-252-9108.

The DARS contact numbers listed below have TTY capability:

Lubbock
(806) 723-2960
1-800-392-1929

Houston
(713) 267-8510
1-866-281-1804

Metroplex
(972) 940-2400
1-800-634-2616

San Antonio
(210) 805-2200
1-800-410-7760

Austin
(512) 407-1320
1-800-687-2676

Department of Assistive
and Rehabilitative Services

Division for Rehabilitation Services

For more information, or to find
the nearest DRS office:

DARS inquiries
1-800-628-5115 (v/tty)

www.dars.state.tx.us
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78751

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Rehabilitative Services is an equal
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Division for Rehabilitation Services

DIVISION FOR REHABILITATION SERVICES

Everyone wants to work and earn money.
Getting and keeping a job is not always easy.
In finding jobs and living independently,
most people get help from others.

TRANSITION

Getting a job and living independently can be very challenging for a person who has a disability.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) helps persons with disabilities:

- prepare for a job; and
- become more independent.

The best time to start preparing for adult responsibilities is while you are still in school. If you have a disability, you can apply to DARS to find out if you are eligible for assistance. You can apply directly to a DARS office or with a vocational rehabilitation counselor at your school.

In order to get services you must be attending high school in Texas:

- have a physical and/or mental condition that affects your ability to work;
- be able to get and keep a job after receiving services;
- need services in order to help you get and keep a job; and
- recipients of social security disability benefits (supplemental security income (SSI) or social security disability insurance (SSDI) are presumed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services.

While you are still in school, DARS may provide you with:

- vocational testing;
- counseling; and
- guidance in preparation for working within the community after graduation.

DARS may also help you obtain:

- summer job placement;
- paid work experience;
- temporary job placement; and/or
- an internship.

After graduation, you may receive other supportive services to help you reach your vocational goal. These services may include:

- vocational training;
- assistive devices;
- job placement;
- job readiness training; and
- medical services.

You and your DARS counselor will develop a plan to meet your specific needs. To assist you with the plan, DARS will need to know:

- what you can and can't do;
- what you would like to do; and
- what your future plans might be.

DARS also needs to know how you plan to contribute financially to meeting your goals. If necessary, we might be able to help you find funding for this purpose.

You and DARS share the same objective... for you to get and keep a job after you graduate that will be:

- stable;
- one that you can handle;
- one that you enjoy; and
- one where you can make enough money to reach some of your other life goals.

Remember, this is your plan and your goal. It is very important that you keep in touch with your DARS vocational rehabilitation counselor about things going on in your life while you work toward your goal. That way, the counselor can help if things get a little difficult or confusing along the road to your success.

If you would like to meet with the DARS Counselor assigned to your school to personally discuss your employment goals and how the vocational rehabilitation program may help, talk to your school counselor, Vocational Adjustment Counselor (VAC) or teacher.

DARS has developed a partnership with your school. This allows DARS to attend your Admissions, Review and Dismissal (ARD) if you want us to. DARS works with the school to help you make a smooth transition after school ends.

Consistent with the primary purpose of this program, DARS Transition services also contribute to the support of persons with disabilities in the community as well as support their movement from nursing homes and institutions to community-based settings.

