



We can help create
the blueprint for
your youth's success.



PARENTS

How parents can help:

- ▶ Discuss DRS services with your young adult special-education teacher or counselor to have them help you connect with the local DRS rehabilitation counselor. You can also contact DRS directly to begin the application process.
- ▶ Parents may request and suggest specific goals and objectives in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) that include plans for transition from high school to college, training and work. You can request the assistance of a DRS counselor.
- ▶ Talk with your young adult about his/her interests and skills as well as possible careers. Help them research programs, matching his/her skills and interests. You can work with the school, DRS and other resources to access additional information and services.
- ▶ Understand that the Transition program is based on individual needs. Each youth's employment plan will be different. Eligible students will receive career counseling and guidance from his/her DRS counselors and can participate in a variety of employment readiness programs.

Divisions of Vocational Rehabilitation and Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired

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School to work program
helps youth gain skills for
an independent future

EMPOWERING OKLAHOMANS WITH DISABILITIES



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF
REHABILITATION SERVICES



Who we are:

The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services helps people who have physical, visual or mental disabilities gain and maintain employment. DRS' statewide Transition program will put youth on a road to a bright future. We help students prepare for employment and life after high school. Types of services provided may include training, employment services and independent living training.



Goals + planning = success

Transition is based on each person's strengths and needs. Each student's employment plan will be different. If eligible, a student will receive career counseling and guidance from a DRS counselor and have the opportunity to participate in a variety of employment readiness programs.

Parental support is key:

Parental involvement and support is critical, especially in the early part of the process. We want to work together to explore jobs and move your young adult toward greater independence after high school.

DRS can help you paint a bright future.

What does it cost?

Rehabilitation services are paid for through a combination of state and federal dollars to help people with disabilities get jobs. Benefits may also be obtained from other public and private agencies. For young adults, most services are provided at no charge. However, once the young adults leave high school, they may be required to pay some costs, depending on household income.

Possible Transition services available:

- **Vocational counseling and guidance:** A DRS counselor will assist a youth, his/her teachers and parents in developing career goals.
- **Vocational assessment and evaluation:** DRS may use vocational assessments and evaluations to help determine a youth's employment-related strengths and interests.
- **School Work/Study:** A school may provide job readiness skills training through work experience at the school district or in the community. Such work/study programs, where available, may allow your youth to earn a minimum wage and high school credits.
- **Work adjustment training:** Provides your youth with employment skills to help prepare for employment after high school.
- **On-the-job training:** Provides your youth with the opportunity to obtain employment in his/her career of choice with long-term employment as the goal.
- **Supported employment:** Your youth may learn skills in his/her senior year or after high school that will help them transition into permanent employment. Skills learned with the support from a job coach can include searching for employment, applying for a job, preparing for the interview, learning the job and working toward independence on the job.
- **Independence support :** Youth who are blind or have visual impairments may receive orientation and mobility training.

Work focused

Brian Bohn, Alva

Brian Bohn looks forward to each day he reports to work at Beadles Nursing Home. There, Bohn has many duties including helping keep the floors polished, and he is earning new responsibilities as he continues to grow into the job.

Bohn was born with a learning disorder, ADHD, Microcephaly and a speech disorder.

He applied to DRS for services and received vocational guidance and counseling, job read-



Brian Bohn, left, with his boss Dayna Jordan.

iness training and placement assistance, high school Transition services, specialized driver's training and supported employment. With DRS' help, he completed high school, got his driver's license and got the job at Beadles. Now, Bohn is thinking positively about his future, which he said he hopes will

soon include a car.

His boss, Dayna Jordan, a co-owner of Beadles, said having Bohn as an employee has been a positive experience.

For the latest on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, go to doleta.gov/wioa