

# TRANSITION FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES



## Graduation is just the beginning ...

What's in your future? There are many career opportunities available if you know how and where to look. For many people, the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) is a great place to start.

Are you a student with a condition such as diabetes, arthritis, severe asthma/allergies, or a learning disability? Do you have significant limitations with physical activities, driving, seeing, hearing, or coping with stress? If so, you may be eligible for vocational evaluation and assessment services, career counseling, training, educational assistance, therapy, adaptive equipment, job placement assistance, and more.

## Why DRS?

Selecting a career that matches your interests and abilities can be challenging. Some people need specialized training, others need adaptive equipment, and some people need both. DRS counselors are familiar with all of these possibilities.

Our goal is to help you make the transition from high school to work. That may involve vocational training, college, or other assistance that meets your specific needs. If you qualify, your DRS counselor also will help you to choose the right career goal and to prepare for a job.

What is it that stands between you and getting a job? Is it something you have the power to change? DRS is all about showing you how to make that change in the way that suits you best.

## What do we do?

DRS counselors typically begin working with students with disabilities in the 11th grade to help them prepare for future employment. The agency partners with all 55 county school systems, the State Board of Education, the school for the deaf and the blind, and public and private colleges, universities, and vocational schools statewide. Throughout West Virginia, 72 rehabilitation counselors work with public and private secondary school students.

In Fiscal Year 2010, DRS served 6,197 students aged 16-21. Counselors worked with these students to develop 1,453 Individualized Plans for Employment in the 2010 Fiscal Year. At the end of the fiscal year, 778 of these transition students were employed.

## Where to begin?

Call your local DRS office. Contact your school guidance counselor for a referral and additional information. For more information, call our toll-free number or visit our website.

**Penny Nicholls**

Rehabilitation Counselor for St. Albans High School  
(304) 356 2371 or [Penny.Nicholls@wv.gov](mailto:Penny.Nicholls@wv.gov)

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WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS

1-800-642-8207 V/TDD

[www.wvdrs.org](http://www.wvdrs.org)