

Maximizing Opportunities for Your Future ... **LEVEL UP**



Planning for Success
**BRS - Bureau of Rehabilitation
Services**

Connect with us:



What is Level Up?

A coordinated set of services through the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services that provides students ages 16 - 22 years old who have an IEP, 504 plan or related challenges with the tools and resources to explore their options, develop goals, and prepare for their future.

Pre-Employment Transition Services Include:

- ❖ Counseling for Post-Secondary Education/Training
 - ❖ Instruction In Self-Advocacy
 - ❖ Job Exploration Counseling
- ❖ Work Based Learning Experiences
 - ❖ Workplace Readiness Training

Important to know...

Who can participate?

Students potentially eligible for Vocational rehabilitation Services, ages 16 – 22, who currently have an IEP, 504 plan or documented disability and are connected to a secondary or post-secondary education program.

Getting started...

Interested students can speak to their designated high school personnel or contact the Level Up Supervisor to get more information and connect to a counselor.

Best time to connect...

The best time to connect to services is 2 years prior to high school graduation or exiting special education services. Level Up Counselors can consult on cases that are not yet open if special circumstances are present.

How are services delivered?

Level Up Counselors provide Level Up services directly to students or through contracted community rehabilitation providers.

- ❖ Individual or Group
- ❖ In schools
- ❖ In the community
- ❖ During the school day
- ❖ After school
- ❖ School breaks
- ❖ During the summer months

****All services are *individualized* for each student****



LEVEL UP ACTIVITIES



Job Exploration Services - Explore and understand your interests, skills and work values while learning to use specific career assessment tools to search job opportunities.

Informational Interviews - Meet with professionals working in a career field to learn first-hand what the job/industry entails. Gain contacts and build relationships.

Job Shadowing Experience - Directly observe what happens within a workplace by shadowing a professional within an identified area of interest.

Counseling for Postsecondary Education & Training - Encourages students to embrace lifelong learning. Counsel students to explore college and/or training options after high school.



LEVEL UP ACTIVITIES



Assistive Technology – Students will learn about the AT available to help them succeed in school, work and the community.

Peer Mentoring – Working in a small group, students will identify skills, personal strengths, likes and dislikes, social skills and life goals.

Self-Advocacy – Assists students in identifying resources within their family, community and school system to help prepare for employment, education and training.

Workplace Readiness – Assists students with building the skills to seek, acquire and maintain competitive employment, including the development of social and independent living skills, as well as identifying resources to address potential barriers to employment and independent living.

WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Short term, real-life work experience in an entry level, integrated competitive work environment.

- ❖ Total number of hours varies based on levels of funding and are determined on an individual basis.
- ❖ Summer and school year options are available for the Work Based Experience.
- ❖ Students who have no previous work experience are prioritized
- ❖ On-site may be provided with the goal of promoting independence on the WBE site



Who is Eligible?



To be eligible for the VR program, an individual must have a significant physical or mental condition which poses a substantial barrier to employment and must require VR services in order to prepare for, find and succeed in competitive employment.

What to Expect:

- ✓ Work with BRS Secretary to schedule appointment with VR Counselor
- ✓ Bring any disability, benefits documents, employment pay stubs (if possible)
- ✓ 1-1.5hr long meeting with VR Counselor to review your case and sign application for services



Eligibility Determination



- ✓ **Counselor makes eligibility determination based on:**
 - ✓ Review of existing medical, psychological, psychiatric or other records
 - ✓ Review of school/employment records (where applicable)
 - ✓ Identification of functional capacity areas impacted by disability

- ✓ Most recent copy of IEP will be obtained in addition to psychoeducational tests/vocational records.

- ✓ Further testing may be required if Children's testing assessments were utilized within school system.

**BRS has 60 days to determine eligibility.



Vocational Services Available through ADS



- **Counseling and Guidance**
 - Career advancement/exploration
- **Level-Up Services**
 - Can continue to be provided upon referral to Adult services.
- **Work Readiness Training Modules**
 - Pre-Employment
 - Job Seeking Skills
 - Informational Interviews
 - Job Shadows
- **Assessments**
 - Career Inventories
 - Trial Work Experiences



Vocational Services Available through ADS



- **Work Attachments**
 - Competitive Placement Opportunity
 - Job Placement
 - On the Job Training Opportunity Development/Paid Internship Opportunities
- **Communication Barrier Mitigation**
- **Job Retention Services**
 - Assistive Technology Services
 - Hearing Aid Services
 - Drivers Training
 - Vehicle Modifications
 - Home Modifications
 - Benefits Counseling
- **Skills Training**
 - Industry Specific Training and Placement Programs



Additional Services Available through ADS



- **Training**
- **Job Coaching**
 - Skill development
 - Deficit remediation
- **Post employment services**
- **Partner with additional agencies to improve employment outcomes:**
 - Department of Labor
 - Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
 - Department of Developmental Services
 - Department of Social Services

Helpful Online Vocational Resources

- <https://www.cthires.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>
- <https://www1.ctdol.state.ct.us/jcc/index2.asp>
- <https://www.onetonline.org/>
- <https://www.mynextmove.org/>
- <https://www.dol.gov/general/audience/aud-unemployed>
- <https://www.careeronestop.org/>
- <https://portal.ct.gov/DORS>

- For additional information or questions...
- Ian Card | Level Up Counselor | Aging and Disability Services
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