

September 14, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are receiving this letter because your child is of transition age and may be eligible for the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation Transition Services (OVR). You are invited to attend an informative virtual meeting regarding OVR services. The OVR Early Reach Coordinator will explain the services and the steps required to obtain the services. Please join us on **September 27, 2021** at 4:00 pm for the parent meeting. Your child will attend these meetings during the school day. A release form has been attached to this letter. Please complete and return this form by September 24th.

The meeting time for High School Students will be:

Period 1 - 7:45 am -8:35 am & Period 6 - 12:45 pm -1:45 pm at the following link: meet.google.com/pfy-jadb-zmy or join by phone (US)+1 919-525-2319 PIN: 185 825 818#.

The meeting time for Middle School Students will be:

During Mrs. Wildman's History Class at the following link: meet.google.com/pfy-jadb-zmy or join by phone (US)+1 919-525-2319 PIN: 185 825 818#.

The parent/guardian meeting will be 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm at the following link:

meet.google.com/pxa-nxzy-wyk or join by phone (US)+1 417-929-2278 PIN: 368 838 908#

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Early Reach Coordinator, Mrs. Natalie Vester via email nvester@pa.gov or by phone at 724-263-4546. The OVR meeting date and times will also be posted on the Frazier School District's Website under the Special Education section.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Johnson

Director of Special Education

Enclosures

WHAT IS OVR?

OVR is the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation that helps prepare persons with disabilities to start and maintain a career. If eligible for OVR, the counselor will work with the client to establish a career related goal and determine the services needed to help the client achieve the goal. The OVR counselor helps the client to choose the correct career and helps outline the steps needed to get to where the client wants to go.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

- People with disabilities.
- People that want to go to post-secondary school (college or trade school)
- People that want to work after graduating from high school

OVR OFFERS MANY SERVICES

School to work transition--it serves as a bridge from high school to work and adult life. It helps prepare for life after high school.

THE FOLLOWING OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE NOW TO STUDENTS WITH OPEN, ACTIVE CASES OR OVR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

- *JOB SHADOWING*--This service provides a one to five-day experience during which daily duties and responsibilities of an occupation of interest is observed. Opportunities are provided to shadow employees and obtain an interview of the knowledge, tasks and abilities needed to work in a particular field.
- *WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCES*--These are paid, hands-on learning experiences where experiences performing actual job tasks are obtained. These experiences may be provided during or after school. The experiences afford the opportunity to acquire employment skills needed to obtain competitive employment or transition to post-secondary training.

WHEN DOES OVR START AND WHO SHOULD APPLY?

OVR accepts referrals at least 2 years prior to graduation, or earlier on a case-by-case basis when appropriate.

EXAMPLES OF TYPES OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY OVR--

Some services can help overcome or lessen disabilities; other services can help prepare for a career. The services received will meet the individual's needs. OVR services include:

- *Diagnostic Services*--medical, psychological and audiological exams and tests used to better understand the disability to find out what specific services are needed.

- ***Vocational Evaluation***--aptitude, interest, general ability, academic exams, work tolerance and hands on experience to understand vocational potential.
- ***Counseling Services***--counselor helps individuals better understand his/her potential and help set realistic goals, develop successful work habits and begin a satisfying career.
- ***Assistive Technology and Restorations Services***--many types of medical services and equipment such as physical and occupational therapy, wheelchairs, automobile hand controls and other types of technology (text to speech equipment) provided to enable people to pursue their careers and achieve independence.
- ***Training***--education to help prepare clients for a job or college. On the job training is also available.
- ***Placement***--OVR offers counseling and offers help with filling applications, getting interviews for a job and practice with interviewing skills. Counselors may also give job leads.
- OVR will provide the evaluation needed for post-secondary schools (college/trade school) in order to determine eligibility for accommodations/special assistance. IEP is no longer valid after graduation from high school.

OTHER SERVICES MAY INCLUDE:

- OVR purchasing occupational tools, licenses or equipment.
- Van or car modifications including special driving devices or lifting devices.
- Job site modifications.
- Personal care assistance provided to help with daily needs.
- Independent living training.
- Home modifications.

The OVR Early Reach Coordinator will provide much more information at this meeting. Please don't miss this opportunity!