

How can BRS help with transition planning?

BRS may provide services such as:

- Career counseling and guidance
 - Self-advocacy for accommodations in post secondary or job settings
 - Self-awareness of abilities and personal goals
- Job search assistance
- Post high school training and education
- Job site assessment and accommodations
- Summer employment
- Weekend and evening job site supports
- Assessment for assistive technology devices
- Time-limited medical and/or psychological treatment
- Access to other services needed to meet career goals, such as transportation assistance
- Benefits counseling
- Vehicle and home modification



For more information, contact the
Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Department of Social Services
A Connect-Ability Partner

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Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Department of Social Services
A Connect-Ability Partner



HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF TRANSITION PLANNING FOR STUDENTS WITH **DISABILITIES**



**A Collaboration Between
the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
and Local School Systems.**

What is the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services?

The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services (BRS) is a state and federally funded program that is part of the Department of Social Services. BRS may collaborate with school districts to help students receiving special education services or 504 accommodations prepare for, find or succeed in work in the competitive workforce.

Who is eligible?

The student must have a physical or mental disability (other than blindness) that seriously affects his or her ability to be employed. Students with loss of vision may apply for services with the Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

How do we get started?

Students over 18 may refer themselves to BRS. Parents, teachers, guidance counselors, or other school personnel may refer students who are eligible for special education or 504 accommodations with a release to BRS.

BRS will assess each student individually to determine which services will be provided.

When is a good time to talk to BRS?

With a signed release from the family, school personnel can invite a BRS counselor to attend a transition Individual Education Plan (IEP) team meeting for a student as early as age 14.

The purpose of BRS attending a meeting this early in the process is to consult with school systems and families to provide support in the transition process.

A referral to BRS before the end of the student's junior year will help make sure that eligibility is established and an Individualized Plan for Employment is completed by the time he or she leaves school.

What happens next?

Students under 18 and their family (or guardian) meet with a BRS counselor to learn if the student is eligible for services. Together, we will map out job goals and the services needed to reach them. If necessary, BRS can conduct a vocational assessment and provide additional services to help develop a plan that works for the student. If the student is over 18, he or she is free to develop a plan of their own with the BRS counselor. However, we see better results when the student, family, school and the BRS counselor work as a team.



How to find funding.

BRS may fund services to students with disabilities while they are in school. BRS may contribute all or part of the cost of a given service, provided funding of those services is not the legal responsibility of the school system. The counselor can help find other ways to pay for employment-related services, including financial aid, medical insurance and the student's own job-related resources.

To contact BRS.

BRS provides liaisons to every school system. To find the BRS counselor who works with your district or office locations and directions, check our website at www.brs.state.ct.us under "school to work transition." Or, you may call the regional offices in Bridgeport: 203-551-5500; Hartford: 860-723-1400; or New Haven: 203-974-3000 for more information.