

Parent Training OVR Google Meet

Please join us on **February 25, 2021** for a google meet to hear about OVR (Office of Vocational Rehabilitation)

The meeting time will be 3:00- 4:00 pm at the following link:

<https://meet.google.com/utx-heya-tgb>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Laura Walters at waltersl@wgsd.org or call **724-499-5191 x.2218**.

James Walsh, OVR Early Reach Coordinator will be discussing the following information regarding OVR:

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 services 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 client 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. Counselor may also give job leads.
- OVR will provide the evaluation needed for post-secondary schools (college/trade school) 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 and Home modifications