



State of Vermont
VocRehab Vermont

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February 22, 2021

Dear School and Special Education Administrators:

As we partner in this unprecedented school year and prepare ourselves for a brighter way forward, we write to let you know of some very exciting changes within our VocRehab Transition Programming and Service Delivery. We know that we have not been able to serve as many youth as would benefit from our support, and that counselor reassignment at graduation for many of our neediest individuals and families has led to disengagement from services. We have responded to this need for more capacity and continuity.

Effective by the beginning of the 2021-22 School Year, which is in alignment with the end of the Linking Learning to Careers Grant, we are shifting the age range that Transition Counselors serve to ages 14 through 24. VABIR Youth Employment Specialist capacity will also be mirroring these changes. This ensures that counselors can begin working with youth and families while in school and through their transition into adult life. Schools can anticipate having their own dedicated Transition Counselor to streamline the referral process, thereby allowing us to serve more youth. Essentially, what you as school administrators and staff will receive is more time and attention from our programs. The Transition Team will also continue to support your local Core Team's efforts, drawing in more energy for resource sharing and project undertakings.

Local VR Transition Staff will be in communication with you in the next few months to set up a time to discuss how this affects your specific school/district. We appreciate your patience as we allow space for the necessary internal adjustments to our new model and take the time that it needs to properly onboard staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the Transition Program Director, Tara Howe (tara.howe@vermont.gov). We sincerely look forward to our continued efforts as a community to best serve youth as they navigate the challenges and the joys of Transition.

Warm Regards,

VocRehab Vermont Transition Leadership Team

cc:
Agency of Education Staff
Work-Based Learning Coordinators
Employment Coordinators
Special Educators
School Counselors
Inclusion Coordinators
School Administrative Support Team members

