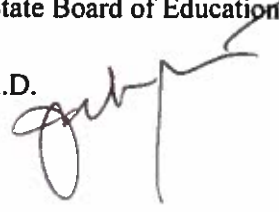




Jack R. Smith, Ph.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Jack R. Smith, Ph.D. 
DATE: January 25, 2016
SUBJECT: Overview of the Division of Rehabilitation Services

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an overview of programs administered by Maryland State Department of Education's Division of Rehabilitation Services.

BACKGROUND:

The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS) administers two federal programs in Maryland. The public vocational rehabilitation program provides services and supports to students, youth, and adults with significant disabilities. The services and supports assist these individuals achieve their goals for post-secondary education, vocational training, and employment. The vocational rehabilitation program operates in accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, most recently by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that was enacted in 2014.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2015, DORS assisted 2,559 persons with significant disabilities achieve their employment goals. Overall, the Division assisted a total of 25,733 individuals with significant disabilities, including 9,509 youth with disabilities transitioning from school to post-secondary education, vocational training, and careers.

The demand for DORS services exceeds the Division's ability to serve all individuals seeking vocational rehabilitation services, resulting in a wait list. As of the end of September 2015, the wait list was 2,697 individuals who waited up to 19 months to begin services.

The Division also oversees the operation of the Disability Determination Services (DDS). The DDS processes claims that are filed by Maryland citizens for Social Security Disability Income and Supplemental Security Income. DDS operates in accordance with Social Security laws and is totally funded by the Social Security Administration.

In Federal Fiscal Year 2015, the DDS processed 76,734 disability claims filed by Maryland citizens. Approximately 25% of the annual DDS workload includes youth under the age of 18 with disabilities.

Members of the State Board of Education
January 26, 2016
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ACTION:

For information only. No action required.

Attachment



Maryland State Department of Education

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)




Administers two programs

- Public Vocational Rehabilitation Program
- Disability Determination Services



Vocational rehabilitation

- Provides services in accordance with Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended
- Receives funds from U.S. Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration. State match 21.3%
- Assists students, youth, and adults with disabilities to achieve education, training, and employment goals



Vocational rehabilitation (cont.)

- Last year 2,559 people with significant disabilities went to work with assistance from DORS.
- DORS helped 9,509 high school students with disabilities prepare for post-secondary education, training, and employment.



Services provided statewide

- The Office of Field Services includes counselors in 25 field offices.
- The Office for Blindness and Vision Services specializes in programs for people who are blind or visually impaired.
- The Workforce and Technology Center is a comprehensive rehabilitation center in northeast Baltimore.






Eligibility for DORS services

- Students, youth, and adults with a physical or mental impairment that impacts work.
- Need vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for work and secure employment.



Service priority

- DORS required to provide services to people with most significant disabilities
- Category I - Most significant
- Category II – Significant
- Category III – Non-Severe



DORS wait list

- ❑ Order of Section
- ❑ Wait list 9/30/15 - 2,697
- ❑ Most significant disability – no delay
- ❑ Significant disability – up to 19 month delay



Examples of services

- Career counseling
- Career assessment
- College or career training
- Work-readiness training
- Assistive technology
- Job placement
- Job coaching



Payment for services

- Most provided at not cost to consumers
- Sliding scale for some services
- DORS pays for services that meet consumer's needs; consumer may choose to pay difference for more expensive services
- Specific financial policy for college or university courses



Specialized services

- ❑ Blindness and vision loss
- ❑ Deafness and hearing loss
- ❑ Deaf-blindness
- ❑ Autism
- ❑ Developmental disabilities
- ❑ Serious mental illness
- ❑ Acquired brain injury



Access to services

- Self-referral
- Referral from school personnel
- Referral from parents, guardians, family members
- Referral from other interested parties



High school students - eligibility

- IEP; 504 Plan; significant health condition; physical, emotional, cognitive, sensory, or learning disabilities that impact work
- Determined eligible for other State benefits (DDA, BHA)
- Students on SSI are presumed eligible
- Pre-employment transition services



Services for students & youth

- Pre-employment transition services
- Job search, placement, & coaching
- Supported employment
- Career decision-making
- Technical/vocational training
- Assistance with higher education
- Assistive technology



Workforce & Technology Center

- ❑ One of 8 comprehensive rehabilitation facilities in U.S.
- ❑ Offers services to prepare youth & adults with disabilities for employment
- ❑ Referred by DORS counselor



WTC Services

- ❑ Work readiness programs
- ❑ Career training programs
- ❑ Career assessments
- ❑ Academic tutoring & GED preparation
- ❑ Assistive technology
- ❑ Dormitory services
- ❑ Employment services



Career training programs

- ❑ Automotive service technician & detailing
- ❑ Childcare provider
- ❑ Environmental services
- ❑ Food services
- ❑ Office technology
- ❑ Professional animal worker
- ❑ Security guard



Disability Determination

Services (DDS)

- Processes claims for Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income benefits
- Fully-funded by the Social Security Administration
- Social security definition of disability
- In FY 2015, DDS processed 76,734 disability claims filed in Maryland



Contact information

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