



Transition Program

School Work Study (SWS)

Students may qualify for SWS if they have an individual plan for employment or IPE in place, and their school has an existing contract with DRS.

There are three types of work study

- School Work Study — Work on school campus.
- Work Site Learning — Work in the community as an employee of the school.
- Employer Work Study — Work part-time in the community where the employer pays the wage of the student.

School work study highlights

- Students may work up to 15 hours a week during the school year, and there may be an option to work through summer.
- Student may work for up to 24 cumulative months. It is preferred the last 9 months be outside of the school/district and in the community.

What are the steps to get started?

- Students must be DRS clients and will need to fill out an application if they have not already.
- If you are unsure if your school has a contract, please contact your local special education department or local Vocational Rehabilitation/ Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired counselor.
- Once the school contract is signed by all parties and Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) or Trial Work Plan (TWP) is in place, the student can begin work.



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Work Adjustment Training (WAT)

The Transition Work Adjustment Training program is designed to prepare high school age youth with the most significant disabilities or equally significant barriers to employment by developing important work habits, attitudes, and personal and social adjustment skills.

- To participate, a student must be a client of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services and have an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) or trial work plan in place.
- If their school has a contract or there is a local vendor, students may be able to participate in WAT.
- This is an unpaid work experience for the students.
- Students may participate in WAT for up to 24 cumulative months if approved by their DRS counselor.
- Their team must meet to determine when the student can transition out of WAT and into a less restrictive employment experience. The goal is to build skills to be able to start paid work experience.
- The curriculum includes real work observation and a variety of work experiences in the community (for example the ability to transfer work skills, learn new job tasks and demonstrate appropriate behavior). A minimum of six community employment experiences must be completed for each student.
- Students will obtain instruction and orientation in the following areas: job exploration counseling; work-based learning experiences; counseling on opportunities for enrollment in postsecondary education (i.e. college, CareerTech, trade education, professional certification etc.); workplace readiness including social and independent living skills and self-advocacy including peer mentoring.
- Other topics covered include independent living skills, interpersonal/communication skills, job skills and career interest/awareness.



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