**Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)**

**Q&A**

**What is OVR?**

The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment.

**How do I become involved?**
A youth or young adult with an IEP, 504 plan or a disability can refer themselves for vocational rehabilitation services. A parent/guardian/advocate or school personnel can also initiate the referral. If you are under age 18, you must have the permission of a parent/guardian to become involved with OVR services. A vocational counselor will review the referral and set up an interview to complete an application and determine if you meet the eligibility requirements.

**When does it start and who should apply?**
OVR may accept referrals of youth and young adults with disabilities at least two years prior to graduation, or earlier on a case by case basis when appropriate. Any youth or young adult with any type of disability who may need vocational guidance and assistance in preparing for, obtaining or maintaining competitive employment should consider applying for OVR services.

**Who are Palmyra’s Representatives?**

Early Outreach Coordinator- Education for students and family (Typically does group or class lessons)

County Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor- Open Cases and Case Management (For all school age students in the County)

**What happens when OVR comes to Palmyra High School?**

Our County Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor is using our space, instead of families having to go to Lebanon.  Our rep opens the cases, completes paperwork, and answers questions. The rep also checks in with students and families as she needs to base on their OVR plan

**What services does OVR provide?**

* **Diagnostic Services:**Medical, psychological, and audiological examinations and tests used to better understand your disability and your needs for specific types of services.---- These are the services typically needed by our college bound students.
* **Vocational Evaluation:**Aptitude, interest, general ability, academic exams, work tolerance, and "hands-on" job experience used to understand your vocational potential.
* **Counseling:**Vocational counseling will help you to better understand your potential, to rely on your abilities, to set realistic vocational goals, to change them when necessary, to develop successful work habits, and to begin a satisfying career. Counseling is available throughout your rehabilitation program.
* **Training:**Education to prepare you for a job including, but not limited to, basic academic, vocational/technical, college, on-the-job training, independent living skills, and personal and work adjustment training.
* **Restoration Services:**Medical services and equipment such as physical and occupational therapy, wheelchairs, and automobile hand controls can be provided to enable you to pursue and achieve employment.
* **Placement Assistance:**Counseling, job-seeking programs, job clubs, and job development used to increase your ability to get a job. You will receive ideas, practice, and advise on finding job leads, filling out applications, getting interviews for a job, and on how to interview. Your counselor may also give you job leads or contact employers about available tax credits and hiring incentives. The more contacts with employers you make, the better your chances are of finding a job.
* **Assistive Technology:**Assistive technology includes a wide range of devices and services that can empower persons with disabilities to maximize employment, independence and integration into society. OVR can assist an individual with a disability in effectively selecting and acquiring appropriate assistive technology. OVR can arrange for a consultant to evaluate your situation and to make appropriate recommendations. OVR also operates and maintains our own Center for Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology (CART) at the Hiram G. Andrews Center. There is no charge for evaluation and vocational counseling services through OVR. Based upon your financial needs, you may have to contribute to the cost of assistive technology devices and services.
* **Support Services:**Other services are provided for eligible persons if they are necessary for you to start and maintain employment.

\*\*\*Many of OVR services are only available once HS is over\*\*\*

**What happens when I leave school?**
The OVR counselor will work with you to obtain and maintain competitive employment. This goal is achieved when you are working in a community-integrated setting earning at least minimum wage. OVR services are complete when you achieve your vocational goal and are successfully employed for at least 90 days, after which your case is closed. If necessary, post-employment services may be available.