

Secondary Transition Experience Program

STEP is a DRS funded program designed for youth in high school from ages 16 to 21, who have disabilities and are receiving special education services or 504 accommodations. The purpose of STEP is to assist the student in becoming prepared for the world of work by providing vocational experiences and skill training while he or she is still in high school. Once the student graduates, follow up is continued. If the student has been accepted and is going to college, then his/her case will be transferred to our local Arlington Heights office for college planning and monitoring.

If the student is seeking job placement assistance, the Transition Specialist (DRS Counselor) will continue to work with the student. We fund local vocational agencies to provide job placement services. These agencies assign an employment specialist to that graduate to provide job development. Once the person is placed on a job, the job coach can provide monitoring, instruction, and follow up. There are different levels of support available in Direct Placement or Supported Employment depending on the needs of the person. Once the person is stable in their work situation and has been working a minimum of 90 days, the DRS case can be closed. If the graduate needs additional DRS services, the case can be reopened and services can be provided through the local DRS office.