

CONTACTING AN EARLY REACH COORDINATOR

Parents, guardians, school personnel and community agencies may request Early Reach services by contacting the Early Reach Coordinator listed below.

Place business card(s) here:

Learn more about the Early Reach initiative:



The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) Programs receive 78.7 percent of their funding through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. For Federal fiscal year 2018, the total amount of grant funds awarded was \$126,920,624. The remaining 21.3 percent, including additional matching fund costs (\$34,350,816.91), was funded by State appropriations and other non-Federal allowable sources.

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Wolf, Governor
Department of Labor & Industry
Jerry Oleksiak, Secretary



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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

WHAT IS THE EARLY REACH INITIATIVE?

In 2013, the Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) created the Early Reach initiative to assist youth with disabilities in becoming better prepared for the transition from high school to the world of work and independence. Early Reach is intended to promote successful employment outcomes for youth with disabilities, beginning at age 14, by increasing awareness of OVR services and the benefits of early career planning.

The Early Reach initiative employs a team of Early Reach Coordinators to provide group and individual outreach, education and consultation services to youth with disabilities and their parents, local schools and agencies that serve them.

WHAT IS AN EARLY REACH COORDINATOR?

An **Early Reach Coordinator** (ERC) is an OVR employee with an extensive background in the social work profession. ERCs have specific training and skills in delivering services to a variety of populations. ERCs also have a great deal of experience in the service systems that students with disabilities encounter throughout their lives. ERCs deliver services in a variety of locations and are creative in their collaboration and outreach efforts. ERCs can be found in:

Classrooms	Parent nights
Extended School Year programs	Open houses
Transition fairs	Summer academies
Employment fairs	Community agencies
Resource fairs	and more!



WHAT SERVICES DO EARLY REACH COORDINATORS PROVIDE?

GROUP PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES

ERCs provide creative and engaging group workshops and presentations to help students build essential work and life skills in the areas of self-advocacy, work readiness, independent living, job exploration and post-secondary options.

IEP MEETING ATTENDANCE

ERCs represent OVR at IEP meetings for students beginning at age 14. ERCs will discuss OVR services and consult with the IEP team to determine the appropriate time to refer the student to an OVR counselor for individualized case services. ERCs also provide information about community resources and can assist in coordinating service referrals.

FAMILY CONSULTATIONS

ERCs provide consultations to students, parents/guardians and families to help everyone gain a better understanding of what to expect during the transition process. ERCs discuss individual student and family experiences and provide information about OVR services, community resources, special education and transition from school to work.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE EVENTS

ERCs work with community and school partners, planning and participating in transition events to help students learn more about transition resources and to build employment-related skills. ERCs also participate in outreach events to raise public awareness of OVR services.

TRAININGS FOR PARENTS, FAMILIES AND PROFESSIONALS

ERCs provide trainings for parents, families and professionals about OVR, pre-employment transition services, transition from school to work and relevant community resources. ERCs educate others about what to expect from the transition process and OVR services. Trainings are designed to meet specific audience learning needs.