



**EMPLOYMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

# VRS Student Career Services

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# What is Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS)?

- A state program that joins with all schools to have career services available to students with disabilities
- A partner in the MN [CareerForce](#) system
  - 50 CareerForce locations in the state
- VRS serves youth and adults ages 14-retirement



# Who are VRS Student Career Services for?

Students who have:

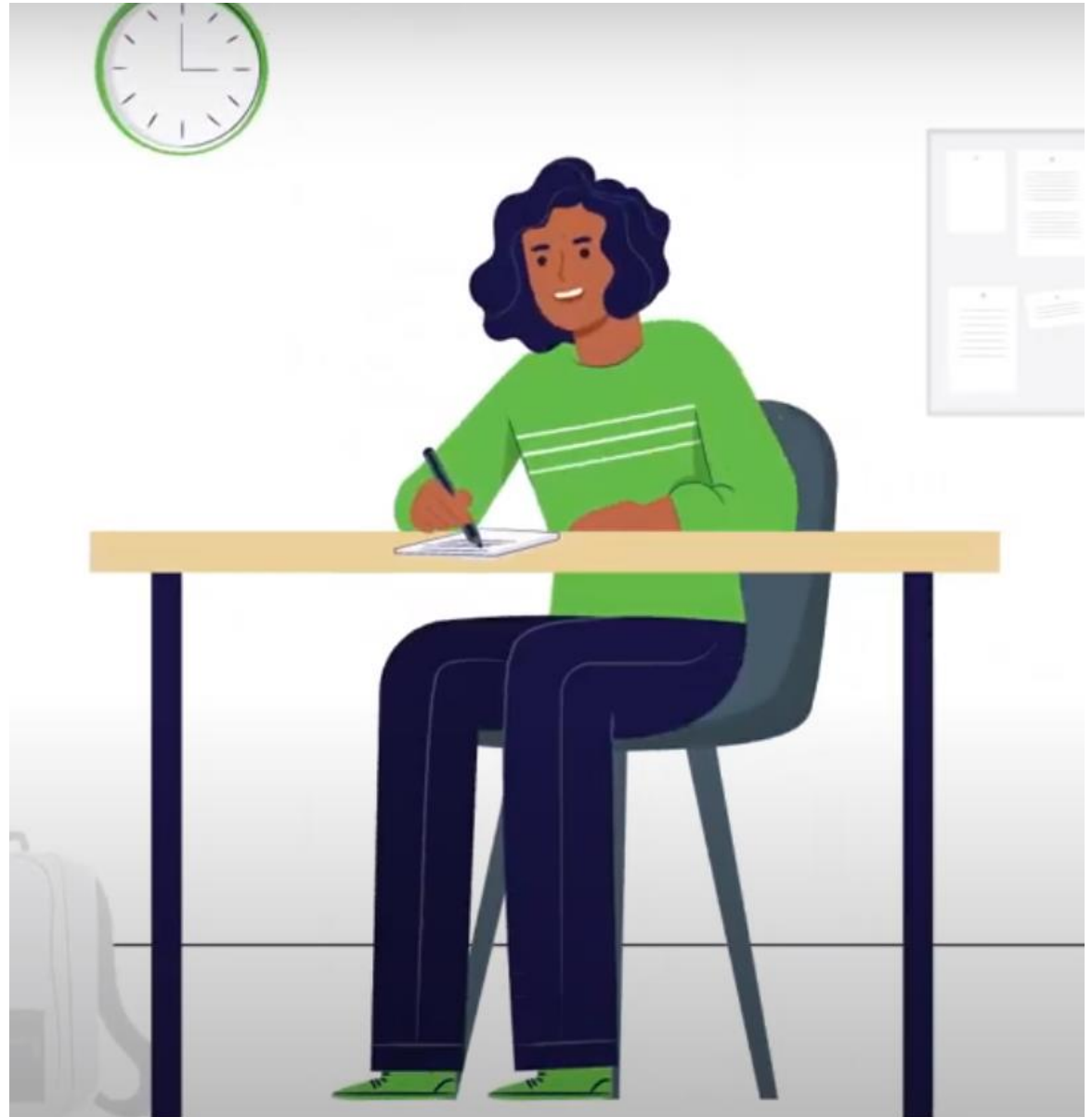
- An Individualized Education Program (IEP);
- A 504 plan; or
- A record or note from a mental health or medical provider



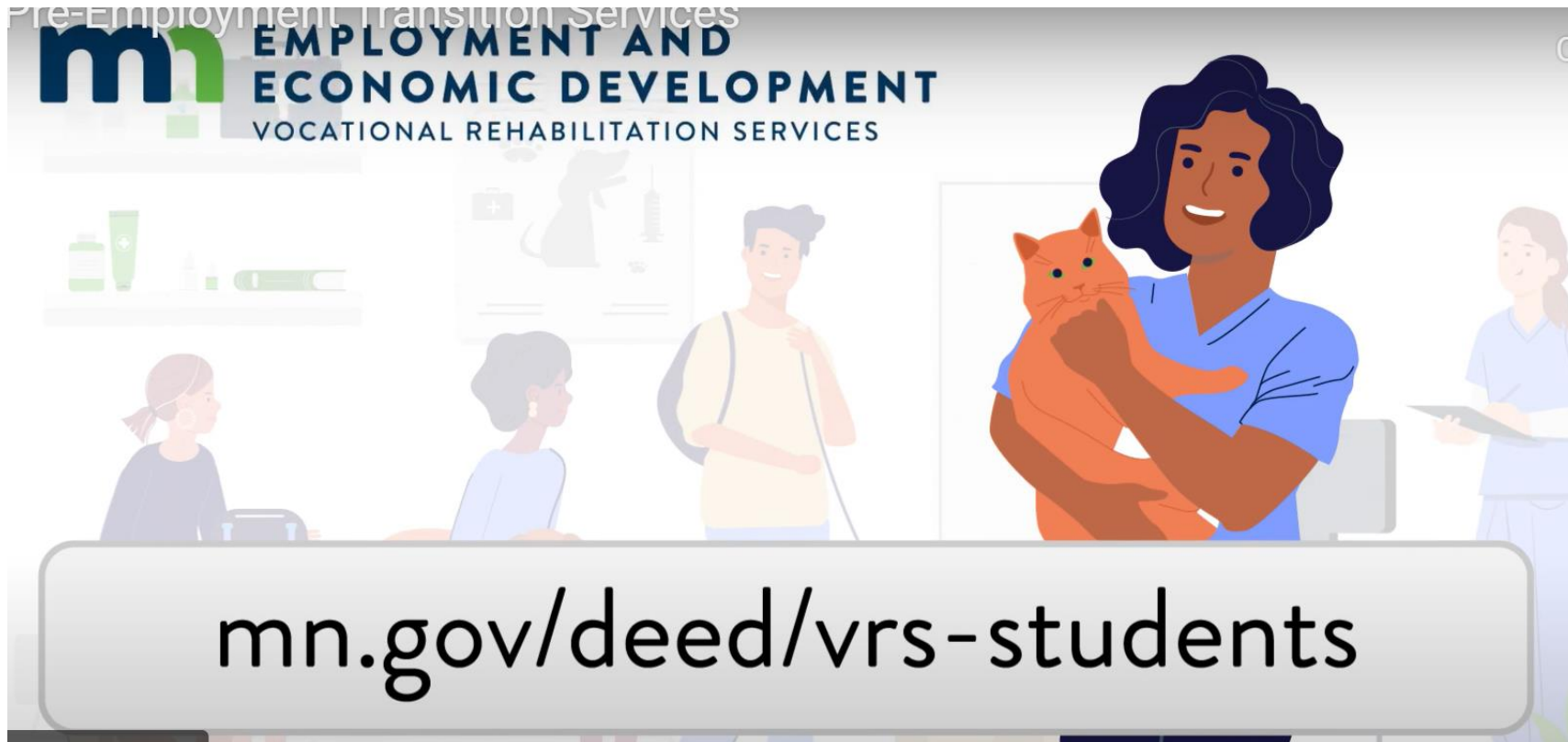
# VRS Student Career Services

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- Job Exploration
- Work Experience
- Training and College Exploration
- Work Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Training



Video: <https://youtu.be/VBhOmM5qhsA>



# Additional supports available



Support for postsecondary education or training programs



Help in finding a job



Accommodations, coaching and other assistance to keep a job



Other career supports needed after high school graduation

# How can I get services?

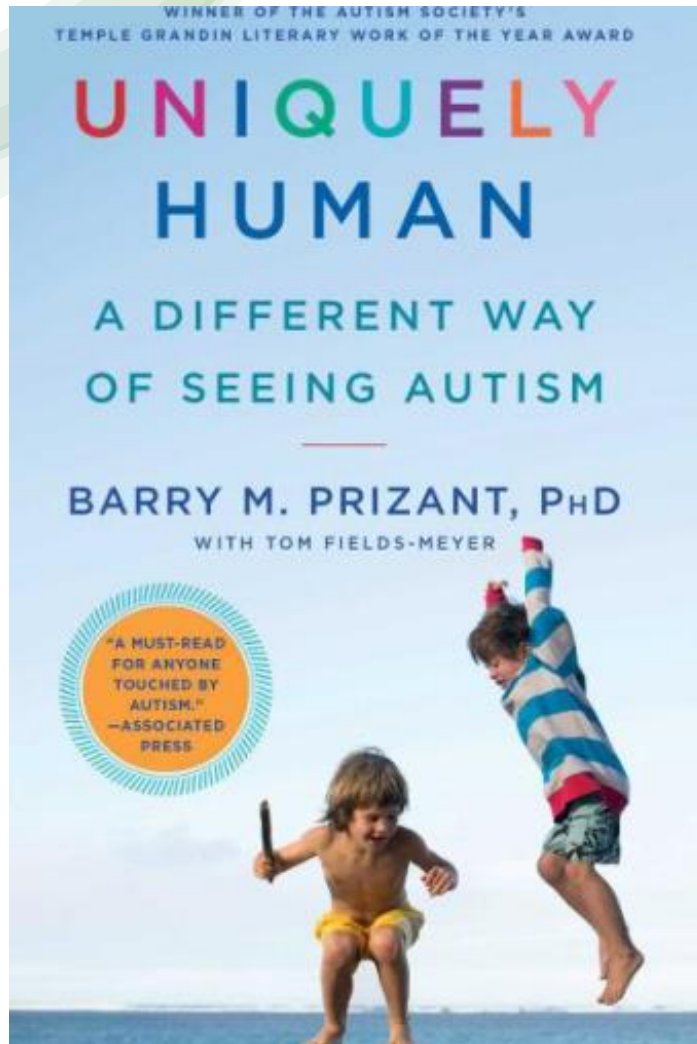


- VRS has at least 2 staff that serve every school:
  - <https://mn.gov/deed/vrs-student>
- Adults can contact nearest office:
  - <https://mn.gov/deed/job-seekers/disabilities/find-vrs/>

The background features a series of concentric, semi-transparent circles in shades of light blue and green, creating a ripple effect. The overall color palette transitions from a light blue on the left to a light green on the right.

# Preparing Students for Transition





## Top Ideas

*Uniquely Human*, 2015

Barry Prizant, PhD,

# Community Experiences

“The best thing parents and educators can do for a child with autism is to get the child out in the world-with appropriate supports.” (pg. 224)

- Job shadows, business tours, mentoring, work experience

# Social and Emotional Learning

“Children- and all human beings- learn more readily when they are happy.” (pg. 215)

- [Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning \(CASEL\)](#)
- Build self-expression and self-esteem, instill happiness, create positive experiences, emphasize healthy relationships, increase self-awareness and the ability to emotionally self-regulate.

# Self-Advocacy

“It’s helpful to think of disclosure not as a verdict, but as a process, one that varies for each individual and family- not an instantaneous revelation but a discussion that transpires over weeks, months, or even years.”  
(pg. 227-229)

## **Four step process:**

1. Make the child aware of his/her distinctive personal strengths
2. Develop a list of the child’s strengths/challenges
3. Without judging, compare the child’s strengths with those of potential role models, friends, and loved ones
4. Introduce the label autism to summarize the child’s experience and disability
5. (Alyssa: then help them learn to advocate for what they need!)



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Questions?

Thank you!

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[mn.gov/deed/vrs-students](http://mn.gov/deed/vrs-students)