“When I turned 16, I started thinking about what to do after high school. I worked with my special education teacher to find areas I wanted to work in. I love animals and I thought about working in an animal shelter. My teacher introduced me to Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) and now we’re working with my school and my parents to find supports to help me be employed. Working at an animal shelter when I leave school is my dream!”

Disability Law Center
205 North 400 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84103
M-F 9:00am-4:00pm
(800) 662-9080
FAX (801) 363-1437
disabilitylawcenter.org

Need our help?
We want to hear from you.

If you think your legal rights have been violated because of a disability, the Disability Law Center may be able to help.

If you are not sure whether we can help, contact us anyway. If we can’t help, we’ll try to connect you to someone who can. The Disability Law Center does not charge its clients for services.

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Students with disabilities now have greater services and supports in finding work under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act, also known as WIOA.

Your disability should not keep you from working in the community. Your school and the Vocational Rehabilitation program will work together with you to create a plan for you when you leave school.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as VR, is a program that helps people with disabilities prepare for and keep a job. The goal is to help you become independent. VR will work with you and your school to provide you with services that include:

- Job exploration
- Work learning experiences in the community
- Counseling and guidance about education after high school
- Workplace training
- Self-advocacy assistance
- Applying for VR services

Once you have applied for and been found eligible for VR services, you will work with your VR counselor to create an employment plan. You will want to think about what kind of work you want to do before creating a plan with your counselor. Your employment plan will be based on your strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.

Employment Priorities

The Disability Law Center is excited to see students with disabilities being supported in their determination to work.

It is important to note that students with disabilities can no longer seek jobs below minimum wage without first applying for services from the VR program.

For more information or help understanding student’s rights under WIOA, contact the Disability Law Center. Utah students have the right to receive appropriate services designed to meet their unique needs.

(34 CFR 397.20 and 30)