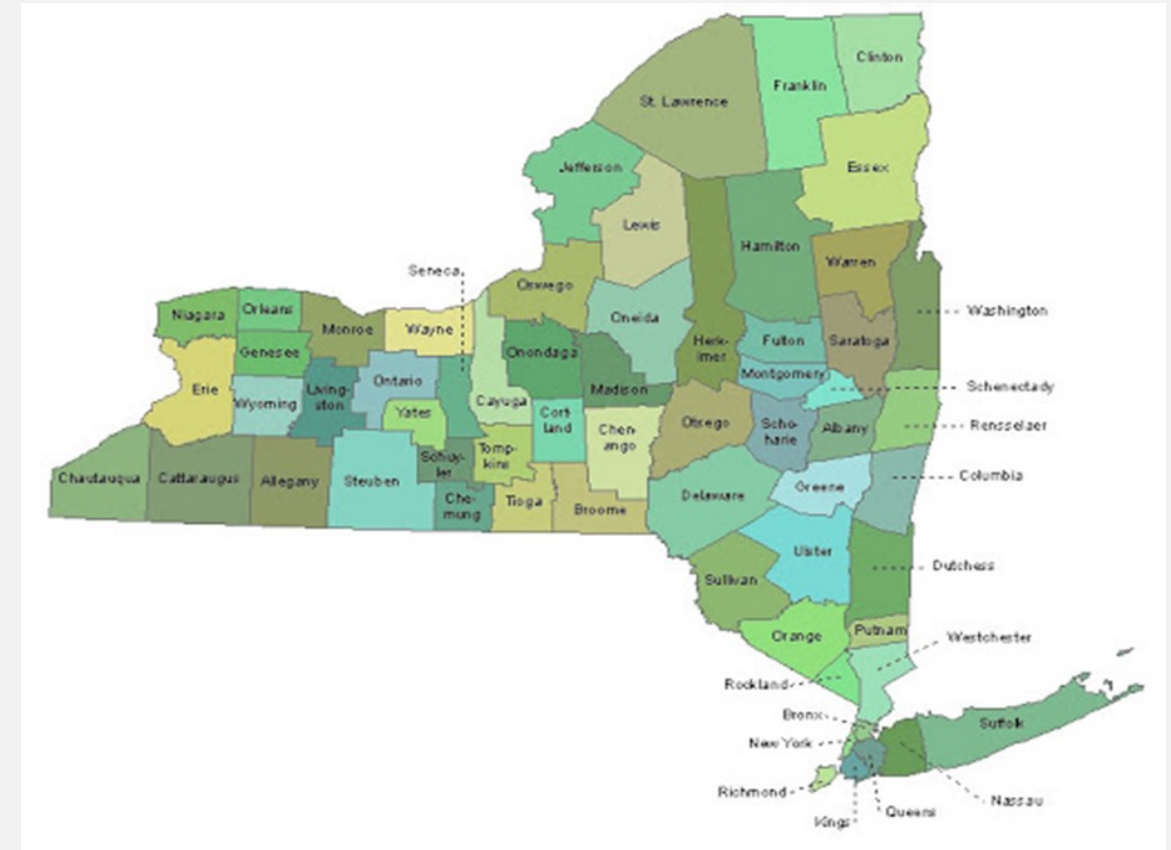


# Adult Career and Continuing Education Services- Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR)

- An office within the New York State Education Department
- 15 District Offices and 10 Satellite Offices

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/district-offices>



# ACCES-VR: Purpose and Process

- **ACCES-VR's mission is to assist individuals with disabilities to go to **WORK**.**
- **ACCES-VR is an **ELIGIBILITY** based program, *not an entitlement program*. Individuals must qualify to receive services.**



# Students and Youth With a Disability

- **Student with a Disability (SWD)**
  - Ages 14-21
  - Has a documented disability
  - Is enrolled in an educational or training program
- **Youth with a Disability (YWD)**
  - Ages 14-25
  - Has a documented disability



# Transition Services for Students with Disabilities

ACCES-VR provides a variety of services to assist students with disabilities to identify, prepare for, and pursue their career goals. These services include:

- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities ***who are Potentially Eligible*** for ACCES-VR services
- Pre-ETS for students with disabilities ***who are determined eligible*** for ACCES-VR services
- Vocational Rehabilitation services needed for an individual to obtain, maintain or advance in a job for students ***who are determined eligible***

# Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

- The Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) for students with disabilities provide information on career options, education and skills training for students ages 14-21 who are **potentially eligible** or **eligible** for ACCES-VR services.
- Pre-ETS align with evidence-based predictors of postsecondary success.
- The goal of Pre-ETS is to help students with disabilities achieve an early, solid foundation that will lead them to successful competitive integrated employment and independence.

# The Five Pre-ETS

**Job  
Exploration  
Counseling**

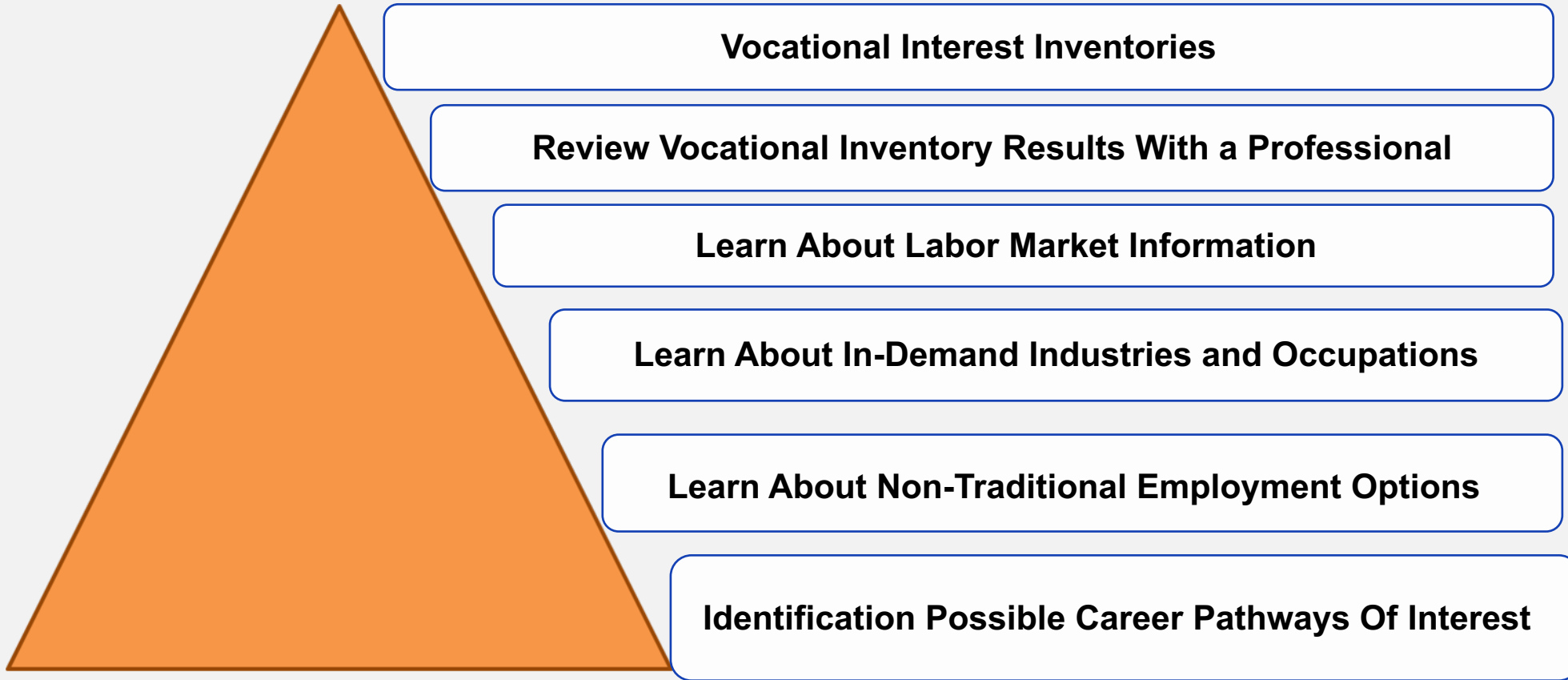
**Work-Based  
Learning  
Experiences**

**Counseling on  
Opportunities  
for Enrollment  
in  
Postsecondary  
Education**

**Workplace  
Readiness  
Training**

**Instruction in  
Self-Advocacy  
Counseling**

# Job Exploration Counseling Activities



**Discussion or counseling on the results of some of these activities can help to identify viable career options or solidify careers that a student will want to explore further.**



# Work-Based Learning Experiences

- Job Shadowing
- Career Mentorship
- Paid and non-paid internships
- Informational Interviews
- Practicum
- Service Learning
- Student-led Enterprises
- Career-related Competitions
- Simulated Workplace Experience
- Paid Work Experience
- Non-Paid Work Experience
- Volunteering
- Workplace Tours/Field Trips
- Service Learning
- Student-Led Enterprise





# Counseling on Postsecondary Options

**The formal name of this service is:**

- Counseling on opportunities for enrollment in comprehensive transition or postsecondary education programs
- Student exploration and planning on a variety of postsecondary education and training opportunities



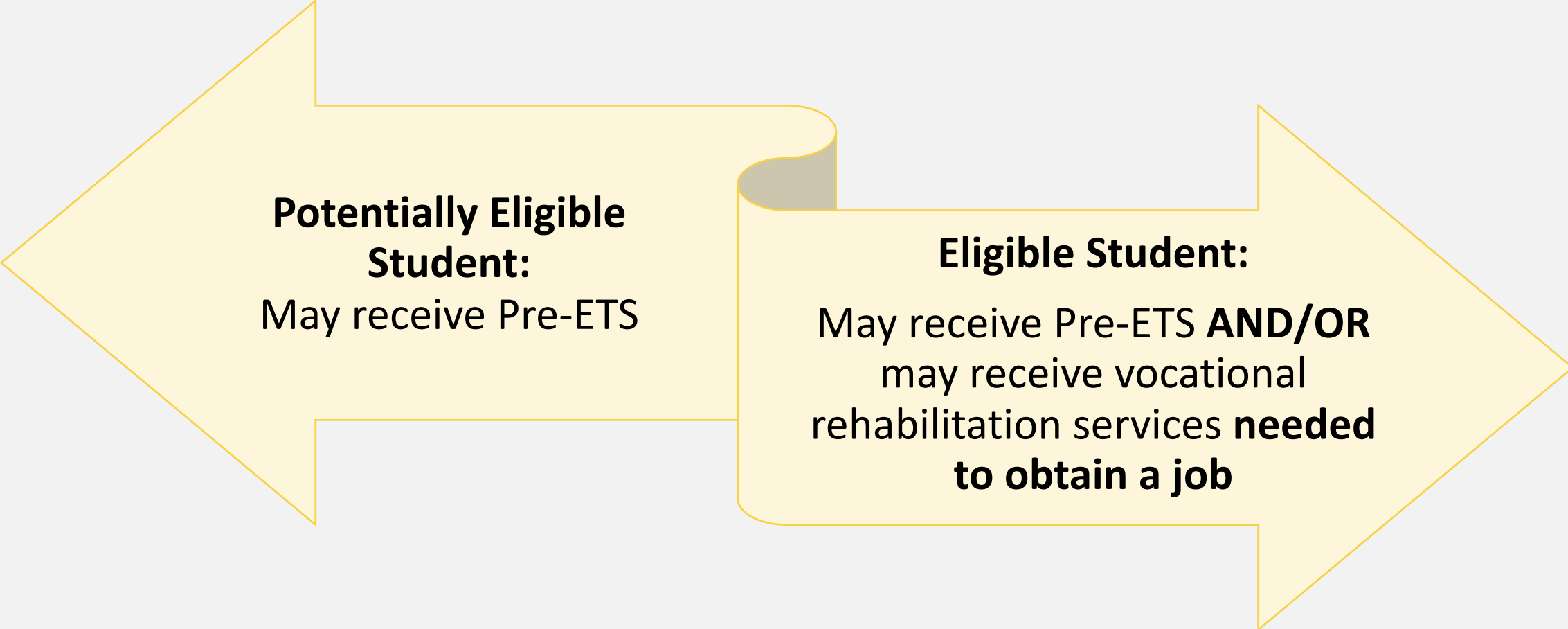


# Instruction in Self-Advocacy



- **Self-determination**
- **Know how to request and accept help**
- **Intrinsic motivation**
- **Taking a leadership role**
- **In support plans**
- **Assertiveness**
- **Listening to others opinion**
- **Problem solving**
- **Monitor of progress**
- **Positive self-talk**

# Students Potentially Eligible and Eligible for ACCES-VR



**Potentially Eligible Student:**  
May receive Pre-ETS

**Eligible Student:**  
May receive Pre-ETS **AND/OR**  
may receive vocational  
rehabilitation services **needed**  
**to obtain a job**

# ACCES-VR: Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- High School-to-Work Transition Services
- Job Counseling
- Job Assessment and Development
- Job Placement
- Vocational or Technical Training
- BOCES or Other Classroom Training
- Books and Tools
- Supported Employment
- Occupational License
- Vehicle Modifications
- Self-Employment
- Rehabilitation Technology
- Job Coaching
- College Training
- Driver Training
- And many more!!

**Being eligible for ACCES-VR services does not mean individuals are eligible to receive ALL ACCES-VR services.**

# Summary: Services for ACCES-VR Eligible Individuals

## Pre-ETS

- Only for Students with Disabilities 14-21
- Services:
  - \*Job Exploration Counseling
  - \*Work-Based Learning Experiences
  - \*Counseling on Postsecondary Education Options
  - \*Workplace Readiness Training
  - \*Instruction in Self-Advocacy

## Vocational Rehabilitation Services

- Required to obtain, maintain, or advance in employment
- Secondary school examples: Vocational Guidance and Counseling, Community Work Experiences, Assessment for career planning
- Postsecondary Examples: Job Development, Supported Employment, Training (vocational, College)



# Referral Process

## Referral to ACCES-VR Vendor: Potentially Eligible Student (Pre-ETS ONLY)

- Student with disability (14-21) enrolled in an educational program
- Would benefit from intro to pre-employment supports and group activities
- May not be appropriate for ACCES-VR services or not yet ready for vocational rehabilitation services

## Referral to ACCES- VR: Eligible Student

- Student with a disability that may need more than Pre-ETS (e.g., vocational rehabilitation services)
- **Students who are interested in identifying a career goal and accessing services required to achieve that goal and obtain a job**
- Student ready for more in-depth vocational rehabilitation services

# Sub-Minimum Wage Employment

- Are you thinking about referring a student with a disability to a program that pays less than minimum wage? If yes, please keep the following in mind:
- Federal legislation and regulations **require** that youth with disabilities are provided **information and choice about work in competitive, integrated employment settings that pay at least minimum wage.**
  - Historically, people with disabilities have not been provided enough information or opportunities **to make an informed choice** between a job that pays at least minimum wage and one that pays less than minimum wage.
  - **Choice is not possible without knowing options exist.**

# Federal Regulatory Requirements

**Prior to employment at sub-minimum wage, youth (24 and under) must have:**

1. Received Pre-ETS and/or transition services
2. Applied for ACCES-VR services
  - a) And were found ineligible **OR**
  - b) Applied for ACCES-VR services were found eligible **AND** had an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) **AND** worked toward an IPE work goal for a reasonable amount of time without success **AND** the case was closed.
3. Received Career Counseling and Information and Referral services (CC&I&R)

# Responsibility for Subminimum Wage Regulations

- **Programs that pay subminimum wage are responsible for:**
  - Ensuring that individuals applying are aware of all the required regulatory requirements **prior to** employment. They must verify these requirements and keep documentation.
  - Any state oversight entity requirements (e.g. OPWDD, OMH).
- **ACCES-VR is responsible for using a consistent eligibility determination process for all applications**
  - Ensures equity in the determination of eligibility for vocational rehabilitation services
  - Provides information to all individuals about vocational rehabilitations services available to support competitive, integrated employment
  - Eligibility determination may take longer if a Trial Work Experience is needed to determine eligibility

# ACCES-VR Application and Eligibility Determination: Required Documents

Student,  
Family or  
School  
District

- ACCES-VR Application (VR-04)
- Consent to Release/Obtain Information Form (VR-21)
- Documentation of Disability
- <http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/apply-vocational-rehabilitation-services>

