



**Presentation to  
Senate Committee on Education  
Interim Charge 1, 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature**

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**A Texas where people with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays enjoy the same opportunities as other Texans to pursue independent and productive lives.**

**To work in partnership with Texans with disabilities and families with children who have developmental delays to improve the quality of their lives and to enable their full participation in society.**

## Helps Texans with disabilities prepare for, find and/or keep employment.

- **State-federal partnership**
  - 80% federal funds, 20% state.
- **Eligibility criteria**
  - Presence of a physical or mental disability that creates a substantial impediment to employment,
  - Services are required to achieve employment outcomes, and
  - Likelihood that the consumer will benefit from DARS services.
- **Work-related services are individualized**
  - May include counseling, vocational training, medical services, assistive devices, job placement assistance, and other services.

## Transition Services

- Part of Vocational Rehabilitation program.
  - Time-limited services
- Seamless transition from school to work.
  - Job
  - Vocational Technical training
  - College
- Connects students, families and schools to world of work.
- Prepares students with disabilities to make informed decisions about their future goals.
- Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (TVRC) deliver services on school campuses and in family homes.

## Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (TVRC)

- 130 TVRCs deployed statewide.
- Presence in roughly 362 schools statewide.
- 9573 transition students served in the first three quarters of FY2008.
- 8280 transition students served in FY2007.

## Letter of Agreement between DARS and TEA

- Encourage community and work experiences that provide the opportunity for students with disabilities to participate in skill development in community settings.
- Coordinate to the extent possible the development of a student's Individual Plan for Employment (IPE) with the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Utilize existing school assessment information to the extent possible to determine eligibility for DARS services
- Provide, purchase or arrange for services on the IPE that are needed for the student's specific employment outcome.

## **Assists consumers with the most significant disabilities to obtain and maintain integrated employment.**

- Identify consumer skills, interests, abilities and support needs.
- Identify employer's unmet needs.
- Individualized help finding the most appropriate job match in the open market.
- Provide or arrange for supports to accommodate these consumers.
- Ongoing supports to maintain the job.



## DADS/DARS Memorandum Of Understanding

- **DARS:** As the designated vocational rehabilitation agency, provides time-limited employment services to an individual that results in an individualized, competitive job.
- **DADS:** As the designated long-term services and supports agency, provides:
  - Non-employment supports for an individual receiving DARS services;
  - Short-term employment services for individuals found ineligible for DARS services; and
  - Long-term employment supports once the DARS time-limited employment services have been completed.
- **Common goal:** Assist consumers in obtaining and maintaining integrated, competitive employment.