



PTA or VR – Which case is right for me?

PTA: A “Prior-to-Application” case is designed for students ages 14-26, who are “potentially eligible” for VR services due to eligibility for school special education services. PTA cases are sometimes referred to as a “Pre-Employment” case since only Pre-Employment Services (Pre-ETS) are available. Employment training is provided in collaboration with schools, and activities are outlined in a service agreement which is provided at application. PTA cases are generally recommended for students in 9th-11th grade or on a certificate track in school.

VR: A “Vocational Rehabilitation” case can be opened at any age, and includes a comprehensive range of services and supports, including Pre-ETS. VR services are targeted services designed to result in a post-secondary employment goal, and are outlined in an Individualized Plan for Employment, or “IPE.” Since Vocational Rehabilitation services extend beyond school, students nearing school completion are encouraged to apply for this type of case to ensure seamless MRS supports.

Key Similarities: Both types of case will offer services for students to gain knowledge, experience and exposure to different types of employment skills, including the Pre-ETS pillars:

- Job Exploration
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Self-Advocacy Training
- Work-Based Learning
- Post -Secondary Counseling

Key Differences:

- PTA case eligibility is determined by having an IEP or 504 through school, while VR eligibility requires a separate MRS eligibility determination based on disability factors.

- PTA case offers “Pre-employment services” only, while a VR case offers comprehensive, targeted services in order to achieve a post-secondary employment goal.
- Students who are attending post-secondary training such as college or MCTI will need to open a VR case.
- PTA cases are only available to students, while VR services extend beyond school.
- PTA services can begin immediately upon receipt of documentation, while VR eligibility requires greater time and involvement from the student and family.
- VR cases require the student’s full Social Security number, PTA cases do not.

Still have questions? Please contact us!

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