



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY,
NY 12234

TO: The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents

FROM: Kevin G. Smith

SUBJECT: Amendment to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supplement for Supported Employment Services Program

DATE: April 29, 2011

AUTHORIZATION(S):

Summary

Issue for Approval (Consent Agenda)

In accordance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended in 1998, the Amendment to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supplement for Supported Employment Services Program, effective October 1, 2011, is presented for your approval.

Proposed Handling

This issue will come before the ACCESS Committee at its May 2011 meeting for approval.

Procedural History

Each year, the Board of Regents approves the Amendment to the State Plan that must be submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration by July 1.

Background Information

The Rehabilitation Act, as amended, requires that New York State prepare a State Plan that informs the public of the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services - Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) goals, priorities and performance in providing vocational rehabilitation and supported employment services to individuals with disabilities in New York State. This document, entitled State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Supplement for Supported Employment Services Program, Effective July 1, 2001, was previously submitted by the SED VR Program and approved by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA).

The Rehabilitation Act further requires that each state annually amend its approved State Plan in specific areas, as requested by RSA, through the submission of updated attachments. These required updates provide information relating to: the comprehensive system of personnel development; state assessments; estimates; goals and priorities; reports of progress; strategies; and innovation and expansion. The Amendment to the State Plan for 2012 consists of specific attachments for these topics and is based on the most recent guidance provided by RSA. For information on the current Amendment to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Supplement for Supported Employment Services Program Federal Fiscal Year 2011 go to http://www.acces.nysed.gov/vr/adult_vocational_rehabilitation_services/state_plan/about.htm

ACCES-VR, in conjunction with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC), jointly developed the Amendment to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation Services and Supported Employment Services Program, Federal Fiscal Year 2012. The only changes from last year's plan is a newly required **State's Goals and Priorities: Attachment 4.11(c)(1)** that describes ACCES-VR goals and priorities and identifies key performance indicators to measure its success. The key performance indicators are the measurements previously established by RSA. In addition, the **State's Strategies and Use of Title I Funding for Innovation and Expansion Activities: Attachment 4.11(d)** was redesigned and describes how ACCES-VR plans to use a portion of Title I Funding to innovate and expand vocational rehabilitation services. Strategies include: SRC support to meet the goals outlined in the plan; increased access to assistive technology; outreach to individuals with disabilities who are minorities, unserved and underserved; and, improving community rehabilitation programs. There were no significant changes made to the other attachments.

RSA reviews and approves the submission of the State Plan amendments annually which is necessary by the State to ensure that its plan and supplement reflect the current administration of the vocational rehabilitation and supported employment programs. Funding for the state vocational rehabilitation program and supported employment program is appropriated upon approval of this State Plan Amendment.

Recommendation

VOTED: that the Amendment to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services, effective October 1, 2011, is approved.

Timetable for Implementation

Upon approval by the Regents of the State Plan, it will be submitted to the Rehabilitation Services Administration for review and approval, as required, prior to July 1, 2011.