**Nassau County School District**

Suggested audience: School District staff; Individuals with disabilities and family members

**Summary**

In this presentation, we heard from representatives of the Nassau County School District on their efforts to become a Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) vendor. The presenters described the process that the school district undertook to become a VR vendor and lessons learned.

**Why did the school district decide to become a VR vendor?**

Vocational rehabilitation is an important funding source for providing employment skills training and placement for people with disabilities. Becoming a VR vendor means that an organization can provide employment services to individuals who are clients of the state VR agency. School districts that become VR vendors must agree to partner with the state VR agency to increase outcomes for students with disabilities including students with the most significant disabilities.

By becoming a VR vendor, the Nassau County school district can provide more and better employment services to the students with disabilities. These services will include paid and non-paid community based work experiences to students ages 15-22 with the most significant disabilities. Community based work experience opportunities provide hands on learning to help students identify and begin a career.

**If my school district wanted to become a VR Vendor, what do they need to do?**

Schools that are interested in becoming a VR vendor are urged to first contact the state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation’s Transition Youth Programs Director. Becoming a VR Vendor is a multi-step process and requires several steps to implement. You can listen to the archived presentation for specific information. Some important steps that the presentation discusses include:

1. How to register with MyFloridaMarketPlace (MFMP)
2. Completion of the required electronic W-9 with the *Department of Financial Services.*
3. Completion of the paper application. The application and requirements can be found on the VR website, [*Rehabworks*](http://www.rehabworks.org/).

**How does the information in this presentation help students with disabilities and their families?**

At first glance, it might not seem important to learn about why and how school districts become a VR vendor. However, students with disabilities and their families can use the information from this presentation to talk with their school district about the benefits of becoming a VR vendor.

**This is interesting! I'd like more information about these efforts.**

If you are interested in knowing more about this, check out the following sites:

* 1. Employment First Florida: <http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/>
		+ Get connected with the Grassroots Group: <http://www.employmentfirstfl.org/grassroots-group>
	2. Florida Developmental Disabilities Council: <http://www.fddc.org/>
		+ Download the toolkit: <http://www.fddc.org/sites/default/files/EFCT.final_.pdf>

**Contacts:**

* + Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
		- Kirk Hall, Sr. Management Analyst Supervisor/Transition Youth Programs Director, Kirk.Hall@vr.fldoe.org
* Nassau County Schools
	+ - James Burns, Transition Specialist, james.burns@nassau.k12.fl.us
		- Patti Langford, Transition/Staffing Specialist, patricia.langford@nassau.k12.fl.us
* Donna Thompson, VR Employment Specialist, donna.thompson@nassau.k12.fl.us