



SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF PEORIA COUNTY

4812 W. PFEIFFER ROAD

BARTONVILLE, IL 61607

www.SEAPCO.org

309.697.0880 309.697.0880 FAX

Parents/Guardian,

Your student has been referred to the Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) and SEAPCO's STEP Program. STEP (Secondary Transitional Experience Program) provides students with pre-vocational supports in Job Exploration Counseling; Work-Based Learning Experiences; Counseling on Post-Secondary Education; Workplace Readiness Training; and Instruction in Self-Advocacy. STEP is a work experience program that helps students with disabilities prepare to transition to employment and community participation during and after high school. Students learn to become productive, self-sufficient adults through a variety of STEP experiences. These experiences may include:

- Assisting students in developing desirable work habits and realistic career goals;
- Provide opportunities for students to explore careers;
- Offer meaningful work experiences through on-the-job placement;
- Encourage students to develop the social and personal skills needed to maintain successful employment and
- Job coaching; if needed

In order to start this process:

1. Complete the referral information and make sure their social security number is included & correct
2. Parent & student sign the referral form and release of information for records to be shared with DRS
3. Provide a copy of their birth certificate
4. Provide a copy of their most recent physical
5. Return all this information to your student's case manager at school

Once all of the paperwork is complete Todd Welton from the DRS office will call you to set up an appointment to discuss vocational plans/goals of your student. He will participate in yearly IEP conferences; help us plan for transition and can continue to provide supports for your student into adulthood.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at jvanderheydt@seapco.org or 309-697-0880 x284. I look forward to working with you and your student!

Sincerely,

Jodie Vanderheydt, LCSW

Transition Specialist
STEP Program Coordinator

Students who have work experience during high school are more likely to have a job and earn more money after they leave school.