

Approval for Private and Out-of State School

June 2016

Purpose

To communicate what approval steps are necessary for attendance at a Private or out-of-state school.

Rationale

There has been a variation of practice across the state related to attendance at Private or schools outside Wisconsin. DVR has a preference for in-state and public schools but also recognizes that there may be situations where a DVR consumer must attend a private or out of state school to reach their employment goal.

The procedure described will insure that the consumer has been able to exercise informed choice and that DVR has practiced due diligence in providing information to the consumer at the time decisions are made.

There are a number of reasons a student would select an out of state or private school, these include:

- There is no equivalent public school in Wisconsin to meet the employment goal.
- The student has received a scholarship exclusive to a school that they are not eligible for elsewhere that substantially covers costs and will achieve the IPE goal.
- The program is accelerated, and the consumer can complete the program satisfactorily and the consumer will reach their employment goal quicker.
- The school choice provides related scheduling/housing/transportation accommodations that cannot be found in Wisconsin and attendance will achieve the employment goal.
- Graduate statistics show a significantly better outcome in terms of employment than in the field of study than a publicly funded Wisconsin school. (i.e., 85% placement rate vs. 20%)

DVR Counselors should assist the consumer in selecting a school to meet their needs. Some situations should be avoided:

- The schooling is readily available in a Wisconsin public school.
- The training/schooling will not allow the person to reach the employment goal.
- The training/schooling will take much longer than an in-state public option.
- The schooling/training will not meet state licensing requirements.
- The school is unaccredited or for profit school.
- Attendance at the school will increase costs for which the student will be responsible.
- The [Wisconsin Educational Approval Board](#) does not list the school.

Procedure

Prior to inclusion in the Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE), the DVR Counselor will seek an administrative approval of attendance at a private or out of state school. This administrative approval will only need to be completed one time per school.

If the Director does not approve attendance to the private or out of state school, reasons will be provided and the consumer will get the opportunity to appeal the decision. The intent of the review is to be a check-in and identify why a student has selected a private or out of state school.

Financial Aid and the DVR Training Grant

No exception or additional review is required if a student is attending a private or out of state school (with administrative approval) who accepts the training grant limit of \$5,000.00 per academic year.

If a student is attending a private or out of state school (with administrative approval) wishing to request funds over the \$5,000.00 amount identified in the fee schedule, the consumer must request an exception each school year for which they are requesting additional funds.