

# King County School-to-Work



# King County S2W Team

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# Our Aim For Today



Understand the Big  
Picture Regarding  
Employment &  
Services



Learn Where School-  
to-Work Program Fits



Know Your Next Step

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# The King County School-to-Work (S2W) Program

A **partnership** that connects employment services to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities **early**: while still in their high school transition programs.

Provides **Employment Services** that support students to get and keep a job in a business earning minimum wage or higher before leaving school at age 22.

# Guiding Principles



Focus is on Paid  
Employment



Jobs are  
Customized and  
Purposeful

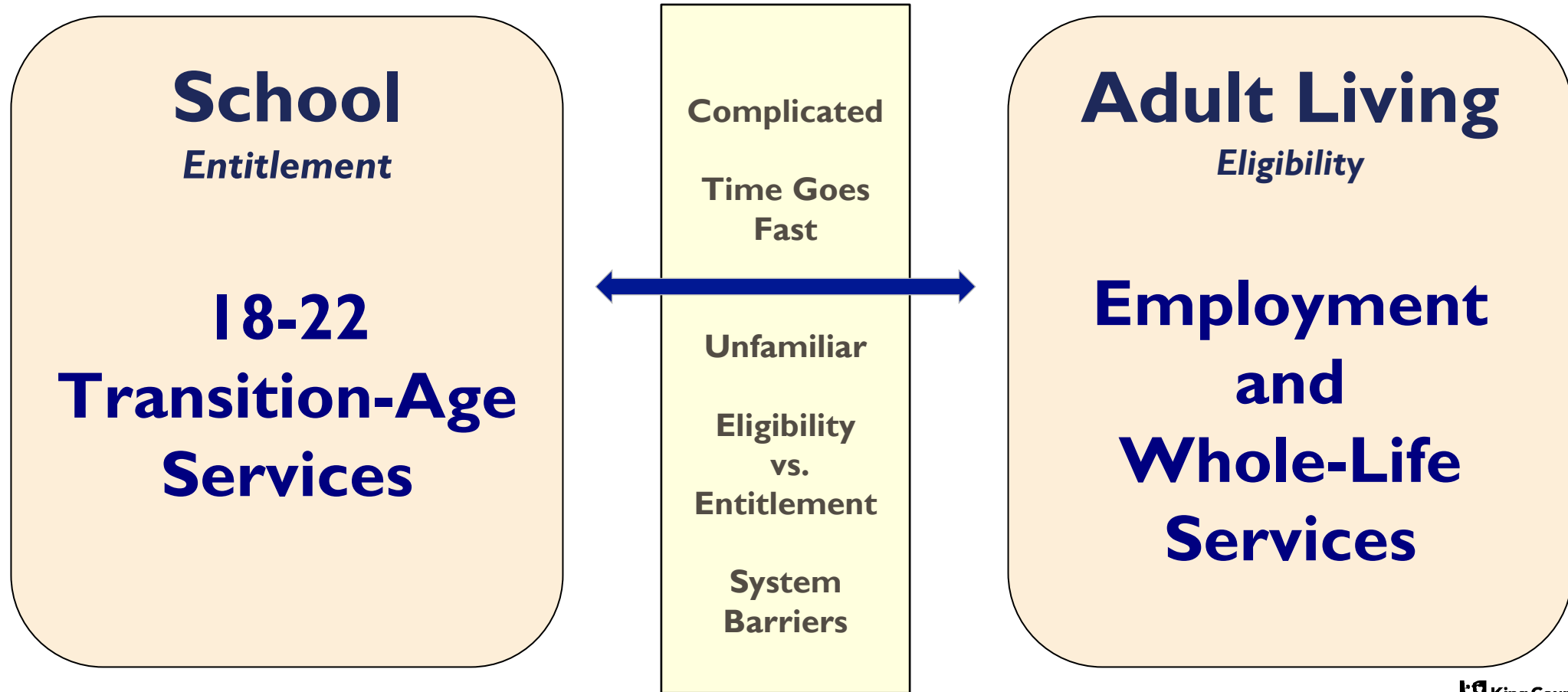


Contribution to  
Community



“All Means All”

# Service Gap



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# Entitlement VS. Eligibility

- **Entitlement:** guarantees certain benefits to a particular group or segment of the population
- **Eligibility:** qualifies individuals for certain benefits, but receipt of benefits are not guaranteed

# Who does King County S2W Serve?

Students in  
Transition Programs  
(Ages 20-22)

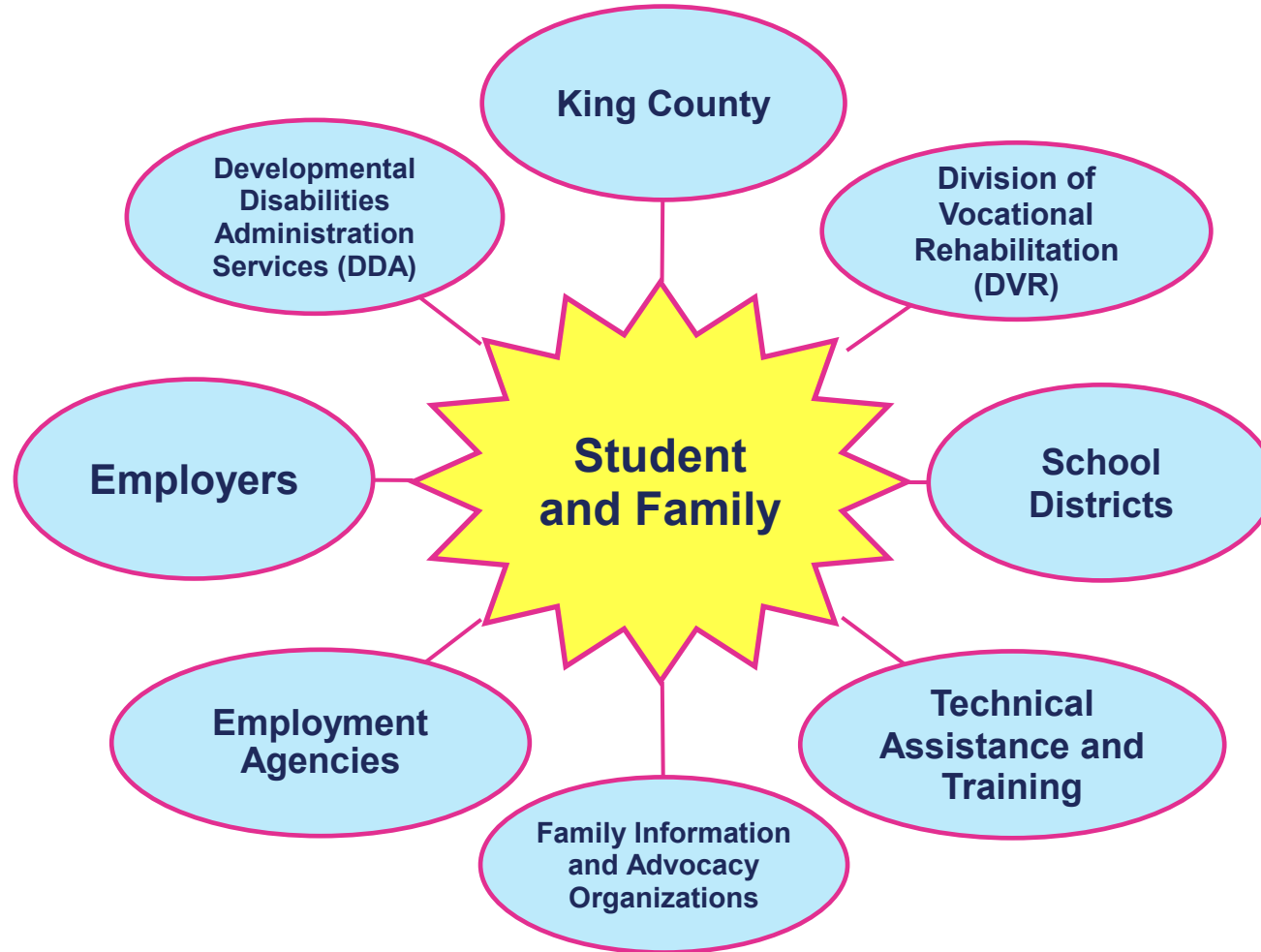
Students Who Want  
to Work

Developmental  
Disabilities  
Community  
Services (DDCS)  
Eligible

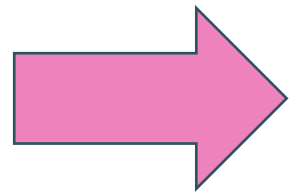
Enrolled in Division  
of Vocational  
Rehabilitation  
(DVR)

Willing to Obtain  
Medicaid-Based on  
Disability

# A Team Approach



# Employment Provider Role:



 **Got a Job!** 

Paperwork support, workplace accommodations, learn job tasks, build independence (will look different for everyone), support to keep their job, long term services



# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

An Overview of  
Transition Services

# DSHS Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

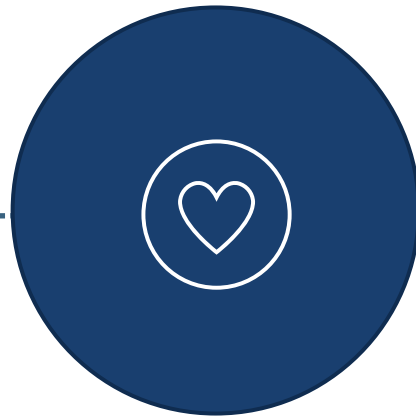


**DVR provides services to assist people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain, and keep a job.** This depends on individual needs, and the information necessary to assist in deciding which services are needed to reach a desired job goal.

# Voluntary Program



Individuals participating in services provided by DVR do so on a voluntary basis.



DVR provides informed choice when making decisions on whether or not to participate in services or select a provider of service.



Individuals receiving DDA services may choose to apply to DVR.

# Participant Timeline

Application	Eligibility	Individualized Plan	Employment
Complete an intake meeting with your DVR counselor, sign the application form and sign the consent forms for medical records.	We review your medical records to determine if you qualify based on your disability barriers to employment. We do this within 60 days of application. If we need more time, we will sign an extension.	We create an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) that includes the steps and services needed for you to reach your job goal. We both sign this plan before any of the services start. We have 90 days from when you become eligible to either sign a plan or sign a plan extension if we need more time.	We support you in keeping your job for at least 90 days.

**Vocational assessment** is part of the process from Application through Individualized Plan. We work together to decide on a job goal based on your skills, interests, abilities, experiences, accommodations, and the labor market. We determine what services you need to get and keep this job.



# Assigning a Category: Considered Criteria

DVR looks at seven distinct functional areas:

- Mobility
- Work Tolerance
- Communication
- Self-Care
- Interpersonal (ability to get along with others)
- Cognition and Learning (Self-Direction)
- Work Skills



# Service Categories

- **Category 1** – Most Significant Disabilities (MSD)
- **Category 2** – Significant Disabilities (3 areas of functional loss)
- **Category 3** – Significant Disabilities (2 areas of functional loss)
- **Category 4** – Significant Disabilities (1 area of functional loss)
- **Category 5** – All Other Eligible Individuals with Disabilities who do not meet the criteria for categories 1-4.

Note: When DVR is in an order of selection (waitlist) participants in the MSD category are served first.



# Current Waitlist Information

- **As of December 8, 2025, all categories are closed.**
- DVR will continue to accept applications for services after December 8th.
- Once participants are determined eligible, they will be placed on the waitlist.
- DVR serves most significantly disabled (MSD) applicants first. When removing people from the waitlist, MSD applicants with the earliest application dates will be released first



# School-to-Work

## **Purpose:**

DVR, County Developmental Disabilities, and tribes collaborate to provide employment related services to students with developmental disabilities who will be exiting their 18 to 21(/22) transition program. The student's team of their educator/teacher, their employment agency, the county, tribe, DVR, DDA, and others work together creating a seamless transition from school to the adult world.

## **Student Eligibility for School-to-Work (STW)\*:**

- DVR customers who lives in a county or within a tribe that provides STW
- Eligible for DDA
- In the last year of their transition program
- Ages 20 to 21(/22)

**\*DVR services are still available to students if a county is not currently participating in the STW program.**

# Other DVR Services



Counseling  
and Guidance



Benefits  
Planning and  
Assistance



Assistive  
Technology



Job-Related  
Services



Vocational  
Assessments



Independent  
Living



Training and  
Education



**DSHS**

WASHINGTON STATE  
**Department of Social  
and Health Services**

# Contact Us

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**Website:** [www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dvr)

# Student Timeline

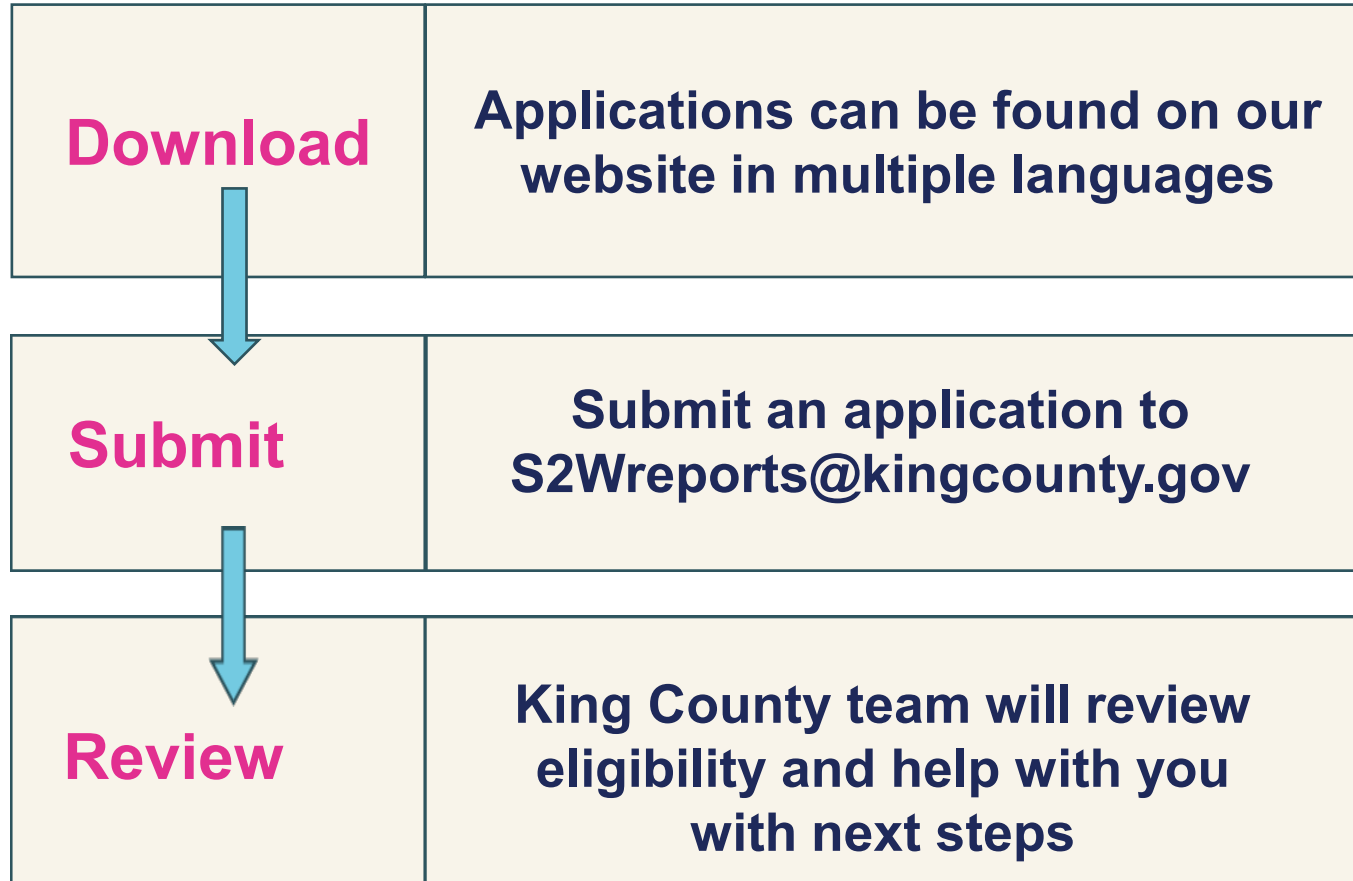
Before Transition Program: Ages 14-18	First Two Years of Transition Program: Ages 18-20	Last Year of Transition Program: Ages 21-22
Do not exit school/ maintain enrollment	Apply to S2W	Start S2W
Attend school district transition program orientation	Apply to DVR (Now)	Identify job goals
Apply to DDA (Now)	Research and choose employment agency	Participate in meetings with DVR, employment agency, teacher – team approach!
Apply for Social Security Benefits (age 18)		Support student and employment agency in finding employment

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# King County S2W Data: 2025-26 Cohort

- 147 Students from 15 different school districts
- Approximately 28 students working now!
- Employers include Pagliacci's, Seattle Public Schools, Childcare Centers, King County IT, Merrill Gardens, Bear Creek Country Club, Seattle Gymnastics Academy, PCC, and Fred Meyer

# How to Apply to S2W?



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# Developmental Disabilities Administration(DDA):

[DDA Website](#)



[Enroll/Eligibility](#)



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# Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR):

[DVR Website](#)



# Resources for Applying for Social Security Benefits

- [Northwest Access Fund](#) provides monthly webinars in English on navigating SSI applications
- If you need an interpreter, schedule a Coaching Intake.



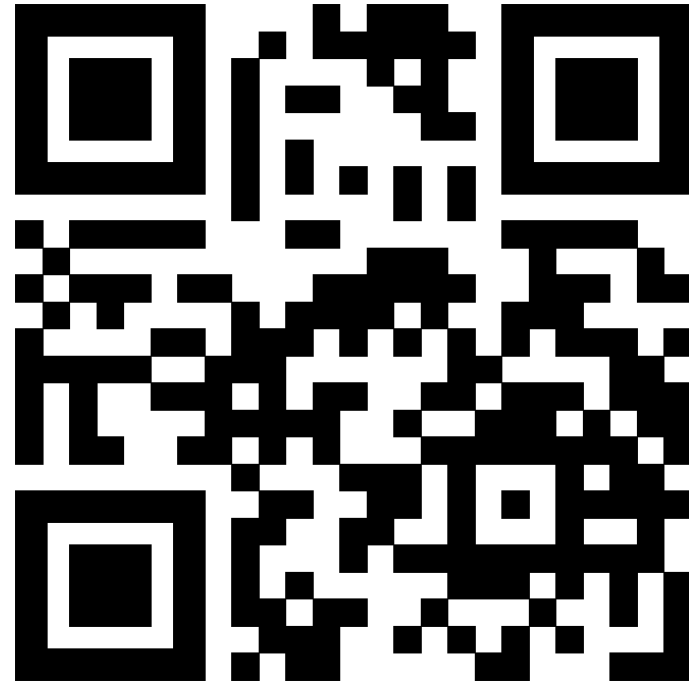
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# BenefitU.org-Multiple languages

Explain how employment and disability related benefits can work together (website available in other languages)

Must be 14 years old **AND** enrolled with DDA

Free on-demand tools and resources related to SSI, Title II Benefits (SSDI), Medicare, Medicaid and more





**THANK YOU!**

**PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE INDIVIDUAL  
QUESTIONS!**

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