

## School to Work Alliance Program SWAP

The School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) is a collaborative initiative between the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and local school districts, which is supported by the Colorado Department of Education. The SWAP program provides case management and direct services to youth who:

- Have mild to moderate needs in employment;
- Are eligible to receive DVR services; and
- Need short-term support to become competitively employed and to achieve successful community outcomes.

The Colorado Department of Education, through a contract with DVR, provides joint training and technical assistance, product development and dissemination, conflict resolution assistance, and program monitoring to 45 local SWAP sites.

### Purpose of SWAP

The purpose of SWAP is to provide successful employment outcomes, increased community linkages, and new patterns of service for youth within all categories of disabilities. The program's goals include:

- Building on current transition planning efforts through existing transition teams;
- Filling the case management gap; and
- Supporting collaboration between DVR, the Colorado Department of Education and local school districts.

### Funding

Funding of a SWAP site occurs when schools and other participating agencies provide state, local, or private funds to DVR, which are then matched with federal funds. These funds are

used to pay for staff and other expenses related to SWAP. Additionally, DVR pays the cost of case services for youth assisted by the project. Participation in SWAP is optional by local districts.

### New Patterns of Service

SWAP is designed to provide a new pattern of service that will enhance existing transition services and to provide employment services to an underserved population of youth. Unique components include:

- Year round community-based services;
- Case management services; and
- One year of follow-up services after successful employment.

Since its inception in 1995, SWAP has grown to a successful program involving approximately 148 school districts that cluster into 45 SWAP sites.

### Typical SWAP Services

Clients being served through SWAP are eligible for services typically provided through DVR. Additionally, SWAP may also provide the following services:

- Career exploration
- Career development
- Employment related instruction
- Job development / placement
- Case management
- One year of follow-up



## SWAP Target Population

### SWAP services would be appropriate for youth who are:

- Aged 16-25.
- Living within the boundaries of a school district or BOCES participating in the SWAP program. [Youth who do not live in a participating district or BOCES may access employment services directly through the DVR program.]
- Eligible for DVR services
- In – School served by:
  - ◆ Section 504 programs
  - ◆ IDEA [Special Education] programs
  - ◆ At risk of dropping out
- Out – of – School
  - ◆ Graduates
  - ◆ Drop-outs
  - ◆ Under or unemployed
- Ready to work after short-term service provision [one year or less]

### SWAP would not be appropriate for:

- Youth aged 14-15
- Youth with severe needs or, in general, who are difficult to place
- Youth identified as “most severe” or currently eligible for supported employment services
- Youth with on-going legal problems that make placement in a work setting difficult
- Youth who need long-term services, extensive training or attend a 2 or 4-year college full time program.

### Referrals

The appropriate time for referral is when an individual’s primary focus is employment and they are available for services. Referrals can be made from the schools through the IEP or 504 process, through a DVR counselor, or directly to a SWAP office. To make a referral, contact the coordinator in the community in which the client lives.

### 2007-2008 SWAP sites include:

Academy 20/Dist. 38 ..... 719-234-1333  
 Adams 1, 12, 27J ..... 720-872-2660  
 Adams 14 ..... 303-289-2243  
 Adams 50 ..... 720-542-4582  
 Aurora ..... 303-326-2000  
 Boulder ..... 303-449-7332  
 Buena Vista ..... 719-395-4064  
 Cañon City ..... 719-275-2318  
 Centennial BOCES ..... 970-352-7404  
 Centennial BOCES/Ft. Morgan ..... 970-867-8297  
 Cherry Creek ..... 720-886-5871  
 Co. Springs 11 ..... 719-520-2531  
 Custer County ..... 719-783-4958  
 Delta ..... 970-874-7607  
 Denver ..... 303-866-3869  
 Douglas County ..... 303-387-1104  
 East Central BOCES ..... 719-775-2342  
 Estes Park ..... 970-586-2361  
 Falcon ..... 719-494-8835  
 Ft. Lupton ..... 303-857-7280  
 Greeley 6 ..... 970-348-6286  
 Gunnison ..... 970-641-7700  
 Jefferson County ..... 303-982-7014

Littleton ..... 303-866-4996  
 Mesa County ..... 970-245-6008  
 Moffat County ..... 970-824-3246  
 Montrose ..... 970-249-7783  
 Northeast BOCES ..... 970-774-6152  
 Northwest BOCES ..... 970-846-5725  
 Pikes Peak BOCES ..... 719-622-2088  
 Pikes Peak BOCES II ..... 719-622-2080  
 Poudre ..... 970-498-6670  
 Pueblo 60 ..... 719-561-8391  
 Rio Blanco BOCES ..... 970-629-5333  
 Salida ..... 719-530-5448  
 San Juan BOCS ..... 970-247-1178  
 San Luis Valley ..... 719-589-3676  
 Sheridan ..... 303-866-4458  
 Southwest BOCES ..... 970-759-3317  
 St. Vrain ..... 303-772-7700  
 Sterling ..... 970-522-3737  
 Summit ..... 970-418-0640  
 Thompson ..... 970-669-8349  
 Uncompahgre BOCES ..... 970-626-2977  
 Woodland Park ..... 719-686-2457

For more information about the program, contact the Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation at 303-866-4150 or the Colorado Department of Education at 303-866-6694.