



Order of Selection School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) Fact Sheet

Background

- The Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) provides services designed to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment consistent with their strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interests, and informed choice.
- DVR serves eligible individuals who have a physical or mental impairment that results in a substantial impediment to employment, who can benefit from vocational rehabilitation services for employment, and who require vocational rehabilitation services.
- The School to Work Alliance Program (SWAP) is a rehabilitation program developed in cooperation with the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and implemented at the local level between DVR offices and school districts or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES).
- SWAP provides a new pattern of services for youth with disabilities that includes year round programming, case management, community-based service provision and one year of follow-up beyond successful DVR case closure. SWAP is not a supported employment program.
- Through this third party contract, the districts hire approximately 100 providers and an additional 16 FTE are shared between DVR and CDE.
- Currently there are 37 sites that include more than 125 districts across Colorado with an anticipated 2 additional sites for SFY 2014.
- Annually, SWAP serves 2,500 – 3,000 young adults who become applicants and eligible DVR clients.
- The program accounts for an average of 23% of DVR's overall annual successful employment closures.

Services Provided

- SWAP provides services which prepare for and lead to competitive employment, including:
 - technical assistance and consultation;
 - information gathering ;
 - assistance with applicable forms;
 - vocational guidance;
 - assessment (informal and formal);
 - job shadowing;
 - work-based community activities development;
 - personal adjustment training;
 - work adjustment training;
 - job seeking skills training;
 - job development and placement; and
 - job coaching.

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Local Match & Leveraged Federal Dollars

- In SFY 2013, local funds received through these third party contracts total \$4,446,683, enabling DVR to draw down \$16,429,766 in federal match.
- More than 50% of DVR’s federal match funds come from the school districts through SWAP.
- Every dollar lost from SWAP will result in a loss of 3 additional dollars from DVR’s federal allotment.

Examples of SWAP Partnerships					
Site	Contract SFY 13	School Match SFY 13	State Contribution SFY 13	Total Funds (State & Federal)	Federal Funds Drawn Down
Academy, El Paso SD #20	\$226,754	\$113,377	\$113,337	\$532,286	\$418,909
Denver SD #1	\$581,250	\$290,625	\$290,625	\$1,364,436	\$1,073,811
Douglas SD RE 1	\$325,190	\$146,335	\$178,854	\$687,021	\$540,685
Mesa SD #51	\$390,400	\$195,200	\$195,200	\$916,431	\$721,231
St. Vrain SD RE-1J	\$382,228	\$191,114	\$191,114	\$897,248	\$706,134

Order of Selection

- As of March 1, 2013, DVR activated a wait list under order of selection (OOS) for consumers in the least significant disability category as a cost containment measure.
- On April 22, 2013, DVR will activate a wait list under OOS for consumers in the significant and most significant disability categories.
- Since the bulk of youth served by SWAP fall into OOS severity rating categories “most significant” and “significant,” (less than 9% last year were determined eligible with priority category “least significant”) implementing the wait list would mean SWAP would not have clients to serve.
- Without the ability to serve youth, contracts between DVR and districts or BOCES will be in jeopardy resulting in a direct financial loss for DVR.
- Without SWAP, there will be a loss of vital direct services to young adults with disabilities entering into the workforce.

