

The Massachusetts Statewide Rehabilitation Council (SRC)

www.mass.gov/mrc/src

Mission: The primary goal of the SRC is to partner with the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) to ensure that individuals with disabilities are provided with an equal opportunity to receive the programs, services and supports needed to gain competitive integrated employment. Also, the SRC provides a forum for consumer input resulting in recommendations and advice to MRC. Our efforts assist MRC with providing a path to high quality, value-based, vocational rehabilitation (VR) services that lead to meaningful, sustainable, and competitive employment for individuals with disabilities.

Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission: The mission and vision of MRC is to promote equality, empowerment, and independence of individuals with disabilities. These goals are achieved through enhancing and encouraging personal choice and the right to succeed or fail in the pursuit of independence and employment in the community. MRC provides comprehensive services to people with disabilities that maximize their quality of life and economic self-sufficiency in the community. Vocational rehabilitation services assist individuals with physical, psychiatric, and/or learning disabilities face the challenges of the modern workplace. It reduces or removes barriers to help individuals with disabilities prepare for, secure, retain, advance in, or regain employment that is consistent with the individual's unique strengths, resources, priorities, concerns, abilities, capabilities, interest, and informed choice.

Membership: In Massachusetts, the SRC is composed of twenty-one (21) voting members, the majority of whom must be people with disabilities, appointed by the Governor to serve staggered terms. Voting members can serve up to two consecutive three-year terms. The Council may have up to fifteen (15) non-voting (ex officio) members. The Code of Federal (CFR) regulations require that the Council have [representatives from specific individuals, groups, and organizations](#). Also, the SRC makes every effort to ensure demographic, geographic, minority and cross-disability representation within the Council's membership.

Meetings: The SRC convenes four (4) meetings a year, one in each quarter, in locations determined by the Council. Unless there is a valid reason for an executive session, the meetings must be publicly announced, open, and accessible to the general public, including individuals with disabilities. Notice must be given in accordance with the State's [open meeting laws](#). Meetings are governed in accordance with [Robert's Rules of Order](#). In the same manner, the SRC may conduct forums or public hearings, as appropriate.

The [Bylaws](#) require regular participation by SRC members in Council activities in order to conduct business. The Bylaws call for each member to join a committee other than the Executive Committee. Absence from two (2) consecutive Quarterly Council meetings will be considered grounds for removal from the Council. Members participating remotely will be considered present at the meeting and will be able to vote on Council matters.

Mandates: Members can review the full text of the responsibilities of the SRC under [34 CFR §361.17\(h\)](#), the summary is as follows:

- Review, analyze, and advise MRC regarding their performance and responsibilities relating to:
 - Application, eligibility, order of selection and provision of VR services;
 - the effectiveness of, and consumer satisfaction with (i) MRC services; (ii) other VR services provided in the Commonwealth; and (iii) employment outcomes of individuals whom received VR services;
 - the preparation of the vocational rehabilitation services portion of the Combined State Plan
- Partner with MRC to develop, agree to, and review State goals and priorities of VR; to evaluate and report on the effectiveness and progress of VR services;
- Prepare and submit to the Governor and to the Secretary of the U.S. Dept. of Education year a public annual report on the status of vocational rehabilitation programs;
- Coordinate and foster working relationships with other disability-related councils to avoid duplication of efforts; and
- Perform other functions that the Council determines to be appropriate under the Act.



Good House Keeping Tips for Quarterly and Committee meetings:

- Check the website the day of the meeting for room changes or cancellations.
- Read and organize materials beforehand to increase your productivity in the meetings.
- Bring materials for taking notes and a folder or binder for documents.
- When the Chair calls for introductions, introduce yourself with your name and the seat you fill on Council. For example, ***“Hi, I’m Ian Progress, SRC, Workforce Investment Board Rep.”***
- Be familiar with [Robert’s Rules of Order](#).
- Let someone know if you plan to join remotely, in case of technical difficulties.
- As soon as you know you will need a reasonable accommodation, send your request(s) to the SRC email address. ***Please note, requests should be made at least three weeks in advance of the meeting where the accommodation is needed. The SRC will make every effort to accommodate requests made outside this time frame.***
- You may want to bring lunch or a light snack.

CONTACT THE SRC

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