

Will MRC Be A Good Fit?



Does your student have an IEP, a 504 Plan, a District Accommodation Plan, chronic medical needs or a learning, emotional or physical disability?

This chart is intended to assist you in making the best referrals to our agency for transition-aged young adults. While the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC) works with young adults who have various types of disabilities, there are other state agencies that may be a better fit for your students' needs. Please see the reverse side of this chart for contact information to inquire about other state agency processes.

No.

Please **see the reverse side** of this document for other resources.

Yes.

Is your student **within 2 years** of leaving high school?

Yes, but is also legally blind.

Please **see the reverse side** for contact information for other agencies which may be a better fit.

Yes, and the student has an existing 688 referral to another agency.

Please **work with that agency** regarding partnering with MRC.

No.

Wait to contact MRC until the student is within 2 years of leaving high school or turning 22 (whichever comes first). While you're waiting, other resources may be available.



Yes.

Is your student interested in **living independently and/or working?**



The student is only interested in **working**.

Yes - the student is interested in **both**.

The student is only interested in **living independently**.

Contact one of our VR Area Offices to learn about creating an individualized plan. **See reverse side** for details regarding how to make direct or 688 referrals.



Contact our Community Living Division to learn more about the available options. **See reverse side** for details.

DIRECT REFERRALS TO MRC

The most direct referral process to MRC is to call or contact the local MRC/VR Area Office or Community Living Program. Students, family members, and school staff can begin the referral process with a phone call or a visit to the local Area Office, and then the student will be contacted by an MRC staff person. There may also be a VR Counselor assigned to the student's high school who can assist with the referral process. It is strongly recommended that the MRC referral process begin two years prior to the student's high school graduation or turning 22, whichever comes first.

CHAPTER 688 REFERRALS TO MRC

Chapter 688 is the Massachusetts Transition Planning Law enacted in 1984 to address the transition planning needs of students with severe disabilities in need of adult services at the time of high school graduation or termination of special education services at age 22. These students are unable to work in competitive employment without supports for more than 20 hours/week at the time they leave school. The law provides for a two-year planning process for 688-eligible students. The local school district is responsible for referring the student to the appropriate adult agency. The designated adult agency is called the 688 Transitional Agency, and this agency is responsible for developing an Individual Transition Plan (ITP) for the student. Only the student's local school district can make a Chapter 688 referral. The 688 referral must be made while the student is still in high school. It requires the signature of the student (if 18 or older) or the parent/guardian. If MRC is the 688 Transitional Agency, the Special Education Director/designee sends the 688 referral to the MRC 688 Statewide Coordinator at the MRC Administrative Office in Boston to begin the MRC referral process. The 688 Statewide Coordinator will forward the 688 referral to the appropriate MRC Area Office and/or Community Living Program so that the student's MRC case can be opened.

The above referral methods can be used for both Vocational Rehabilitation and the Community Living Division.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR)

Assisting people who would like to find or return to work.

Community Living (CL)

Assisting people who would like to live more independently, and participate more fully in their community.

**Contact your local
MRC Staff Person:**

(800) 245-6543

www.mass.gov/mrc

Other State Agencies to Consider:

Department of Mental Health (DMH):

For students with a serious mental illness, please contactDMH 617-626-8000

Department of Developmental Services (DDS):

For students with intellectual disabilities, please contactDDS 617-727-5608

MA Commission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing (MCDHH):

For students who are deaf/hard of hearing, please contactMCDHH 617-727-5550

MA Commission for the Blind (MCB):

For students who are legally blind, please contactMCB 617-727-5550

Department of Children and Families (DCF):

For students in DCF custody, please contactDCF 617-748-2000