



**COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
AND
REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR THE BLIND
AND
INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

PURPOSE

This agreement is entered into by Missouri Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (MDVR), Rehabilitation Services for the Blind (RSB), and Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) for the purpose of providing quality services and coordinating program resources for the provision of auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities who qualify for services from Vocational Rehabilitation or Rehabilitation Services for the Blind. The ADA defines auxiliary aids and services as including qualified interpreters or other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available to individuals who are deaf / hard of hearing, qualified readers, taped texts, or other effective methods of making visually delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments; the acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and other similar services and actions. Examples of auxiliary aids and services are as follows: certified interpreters, qualified readers, note takers, taped texts, etc., but IHEs are not required under the ADA to provide devices or services of a personal nature, such as eyeglasses, hearing aids, wheelchairs, or readers for personal use or study.

This agreement is supported by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1998, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1998, Workforce Investment Act of 1998, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 amended in 1998 to delineate responsibility for the provision of auxiliary aids and services to students with disabilities and vocational rehabilitation clients in post-secondary education in compliance with the laws. This interagency agreement shall be the mechanism used to formalize an agreement between MDVR/RSB and IHEs regarding their responsibilities to individuals with disabilities who are jointly clients of the MDVR/RSB system and enrolled students in higher education.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- The mission of MDVR / RSB is to assist individuals with disabilities in successfully preparing for, obtaining, and retaining employment. MDVR / RSB provides a variety of services pursuant to this mission. In contrast, the mission of higher education is to make available to all academically qualified students (regardless of disability) the opportunity to acquire knowledge, skills, and/or expertise commensurate with their level of ability. Specifically, public IHEs are obligated by law to provide reasonable accommodation for qualified individuals with a disability unless such accommodation would fundamentally alter the nature of such services provided or result in undue financial and administrative burdens. While the missions of MDVR / RSB and of higher education are different, they are not mutually exclusive. This agreement seeks to clarify roles and responsibilities of the parties involved in fostering a seamless delivery system for those services that overlap in MDVR / RSB's focus on successful employment outcomes and the mandate of higher education to provide equal access as required by law.
- It is the intent of Congress, through the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, for MDVR / RSB to participate in the provision of MDVR / RSB services for eligible students with disabilities in colleges and universities.
- In keeping with their differing missions, the state MDVR / RSB agencies and IHEs may maintain different requirements regarding eligibility, documentation of disability, and assignment of services (MDVR / RSB) or accommodations (IHE); nothing within this agreement shall obligate MDVR / RSB nor IHE to abandon or alter their policies in regard to such matters as they are used in guiding the provision of services / support.
- MDVR / RSB includes the determination of eligibility for MDVR / RSB services, diagnostic and evaluation services, rehabilitation planning and the provision of program services on an individualized basis. IHEs shall retain the authority to establish their own eligibility guidelines, policies and procedures and determination of services.
- If services that are included in a MDVR / RSB eligible person's Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) are also services for which an IHE is required to provide under prevailing law, MDVR or RSB and IHE may share in the responsibility of costs in an equitable state-wide manner. This includes interpreter services and real time captioning.

- MDVR / RSB and IHEs will work cooperatively to ensure that joint student referrals will be made as appropriate. It is the responsibility of the student to request services from an IHE, and the decision of a student to participate in a vocational rehabilitation program must be made voluntarily by the student. An IHE may not require a student to apply for MDVR / RSB benefits and it may not withhold payment for required auxiliary aids and services while the student's MDVR / RSB eligibility is being determined. MDVR and / or RSB and the IHE will share necessary information regarding eligibility requirements, description of rules, regulations and policies. While MDVR interpreter / note taker / real time captioning services for students who are deaf / hard of hearing are not based on a financial need test, all other auxiliary aids are based on financial guidelines. MDVR / RSB and IHEs will share pertinent information regarding the identification, eligibility, accommodation and service provision on a selected basis in accordance with confidentiality guidelines in regard to the protection, use and release of personal information under federal law and state policy in order to service students with disabilities.
- Nothing within this agreement shall obligate IHEs to provide services or accommodations to students with disabilities who are clients of the MDVR / RSB system that are not required for students with disabilities who are not clients of MDVR / RSB.
- Nothing within this agreement prohibits the state MDVR / RSB agency from contracting with individual IHEs to provide services / support for its clients beyond those required to assure equal access to educational opportunity.
- Disputes between IHE and MDVR or RSB that cannot be resolved at the local level will be referred to the designated Administrator of IHE and the Assistant Commissioner of MDVR or the Deputy Director of RSB for resolution. IHE, MDVR and RSB services will continue during the resolution of disputes. The parties will formalize their dispute resolution procedure by separate memorandum, identifying the role of the student in the appeal process.
- The parties provide assurance they do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, disability or veteran status in employment or any program or activity offered or sponsored.
- This agreement will remain in effect until it is received, can be amended or terminated at any time by mutual consent of all entities. Additionally, either party may terminate this agreement within thirty (30) days written notice.

 C. Jeanne Loyd, Assistant Commissioner
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

 Date

 Michael Fester, Deputy Director
 Rehabilitation Services for the Blind

 Date

 Date

**RECOMMENDED FUNDING RESPONSIBILITIES
MDVR / RSB / IHE**

Sign Language Interpreters*	MDVR – 50%, IHE – 50% for in class services In-class services are lecture, lab, campus-provided tutoring, instructor conferences, and field trips.
Real-time Captioning	MDVR – 50%, IHE – 50% for in-class services
Captioning of Videos	IHE
Assistive Listening Devices Prescribed Non-prescribed	MDVR IHE
Testing Accommodations	IHE
Braille, Textbooks, Other materials for classes, large print texts	RFB&D, IHE RSB maybe able to assist with cost of Brailled materials for personal use
Note-taking (paid)* NCR paper Devices – Type & Speak	MDVR – 50%, IHE – 50% for in-class services IHE, MDVR MDVR, RSB (for personal use)
Taped textbooks & other class materials Tape Recorder RFB&D Individual Memberships & Yearly renewal fee RFB&D Institutional Memberships & Yearly renewal	IHE MDVR, RSB (for personal use) MDVR (for personal use) IHE
Adjustable Tables	IHE
Alternative Seating Prescribed	IHE MDVR, RSB
On-Campus Residential Modifications	IHE
Campus Physical Accessibility	IHE
Transportation On campus shuttle To school	IHE MDVR, RSB, Student
Personal Attendants	MDVR, RSB, Students, Other Resources
Readers / Scribes Exams Readers / Scribes In-class Lab Assistants	IHE MDVR, RSB (for personal use) MDVR, RSB (readers only)
Internship & Related Experiences Experiences	MDVR, RSB, IHE (negotiable) Site Specific
Tutoring Available to all students Private/Personal	IHE MDVR, RSB, Student
LD and AT Evaluations **	MDVR, RSB, Student
Assistive Technology Personal In – class	MDVR / RSB IHE

*Individual campuses that provide interpreting / note-taking services for MDVR deaf students the following will apply: 1-9 MDVR deaf students – interpreter/ note-taking costs will be shared at 50% by IHE and MDVR, reimbursement for the 10th or above MDVR deaf student- interpreters / note-taking services will be provided at 100% by MDVR.

**Institutions currently providing these evaluations to the student will not receive funding for these services from MDVR / RSB.