



Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

Building Positive Futures for Virginia's Children

Got Rights? You Bet! Let's Start by Voting

Many transitioning youth with disabilities look for ways to demonstrate they are moving into adulthood. Some apply for a driver's license; some seek part-time jobs, while others engage in risky behaviors. If you are the parent of a transitioning youth and you have not sought full guardianship protections of your son or daughter you have the opportunity to help your youth take a positive step into adulthood. Help your youth learn first hand about civil rights protections by helping them become a registered voter. Americans all across the nation in local, state, and national elections officially make their opinions known about who they believe should lead their communities or how public funds should be disbursed.

In order to qualify as a voter however, youth 18 and older must register and meet eligibility requirements. The Virginia board of Election outlines the eligibility requirements for Virginia residents.

http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Registering_to_Vote/Index.html

To be eligible to register to vote in Virginia a person must:

- ◆ Be a resident of Virginia (A person who has come to Virginia for temporary purposes and intends to return to another state is not considered a resident for voting purposes)
- ◆ Be a U. S. Citizen
- ◆ Be 18 years old (Any person who is 17 years old and will be eighteen years of age at the next general election shall be permitted to register in advance and also vote in any intervening primary or special election)
- ◆ Does not claim the right to vote in any other State
- ◆ Not currently declared mentally incompetent by a court of law
- ◆ If convicted of a felony, your right to vote must have been restored

Additionally voting locations must be accessible for persons with disabilities. In accordance with the Help America Vote Act every polling location in Virginia must be equipped with at



least one accessible voting system that will allow all voters with a disability to vote the same private and independent manner as a voter without a disability.

If a voter requires assistance in voting due to a *physical disability or inability to read or write* they can receive assistance but must request it.

A person with *cognitive disabilities*, due to any reason, can be eligible to vote if they are not currently ruled to be mentally incompetent by a court of law.

For individuals with *vision impairments* the State Board of Elections works to provide large print copies of all voting related material. Your local Registrar's Office should have large print versions of all materials in circulation at this time.

If your youth is applying for a driver's license they may also register to vote at the Department of Motor Vehicles at the same time.

For more information please visit the Virginia State Board of Elections (SBE). The organization was created in 1946 as a bipartisan agency responsible for ensuring uniformity, fairness, accuracy and purity in all elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The agency promotes the proper administration of election laws, campaign finance disclosure compliance, and voter registration processes in Virginia by promulgating rules, issuing regulations, and providing training and supervision to local, county and city electoral boards and general registrars. The agency operates and maintains a centralized statewide database of voter registration and election related data. <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/>

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the [Help America Vote Act](#) of 2002 (HAVA). EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing [guidance](#) to meet HAVA requirements, adopting [voluntary voting system guidelines](#), and serving as a [national clearinghouse](#) of information about election administration. EAC also [accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems](#), as well as [audits](#) the use of HAVA funds.

Other responsibilities include maintaining the [national mail voter registration form](#) developed in accordance with the [National Voter Registration Act of 1993](#).
http://www.eac.gov/index_html1



Introducing the TACE Centers

Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers provide technical support and continuing education programs to state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners. The Centers are VR's resource for current, reliable information on quality management practices, service delivery and vocational rehabilitation skill sets. The Centers have the resources of the entire TA Network to help each agency improve its organizational performance and ultimately improve employment outcomes for consumers with disabilities. For more information on current or planned activities in a federal region, contact the TACE Centers as follows:

Region 1 – CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

University of Massachusetts, Boston
Institute for Community Inclusion/ UCEDD
100 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, MA 02125
Phone: (617) 287-4342
TTY: (617) 287-4350
Web site: <http://www.nercep.org>

Region 2 – NJ, NY, PR, VI

State University of New York, Buffalo
316 Parker Hall, 3435 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214-3007
Phone: (716) 829-3934
Web site: <http://www.rcep2.buffalo.edu>

Region 3 – DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

George Washington University
2011 Eye St. N.W., Ste 300
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 973-1550
TTY (202) 973-1544
Web site: <http://www.gwu.edu/~rrcep/>

Region 4 – AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, MS, TN

TACE Southeast
1419 Mayson St.
Atlanta, GA 30309
Phone: 404-541-9001
Web site: <http://www.tacesoutheast.org>

Region 5 – IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Southern Illinois University – Carbondale
Northwest Annex, Wing B, Ste 101
Carbondale, IL 62901-6703
Phone: (618) 536-2461
Web site: <http://www.rcepV.siu.edu/>

Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

University of Arkansas
Graduate Education Building
College of Education and Health Professions
Fayetteville, AR 72701
Phone: (501) 623-7700
Web site: <http://www.uacurrents.org>

Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE

University of Missouri-Columbia
98 Corporate Lake Drive
Columbia, MO 65203
Phone: (417) 532-7192

Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

University of Northern Colorado
Gunter Hall, Room 0290
Campus Box 82
Greely, CO 80639
Phone: (970) 351-1320, (800) 765-8230
Web site: <http://www.unco.edu/TACE>

Region 9 AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Basin

San Diego State University
Interwork Institute
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182
Phone: (619) 594-7183
Web site: <http://interwork.sdsu.edu/>

Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA

University of Washington
Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation
6912 220th St. SW, Suite 105
Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043
Phone: (425) 774-9303
TTY: (425) 771-7438
<http://www.ccer.org>