



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA

Carl Vinson
Institute of Government
*Georgia Workforce and
Economic Resilience Center*

**GEORGIA'S
WORKFORCE
CONFERENCE**

Harnessing the Power of Diverse Talent

Youth and Adults with Disabilities in the Workforce

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Statistics

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Chris Wells

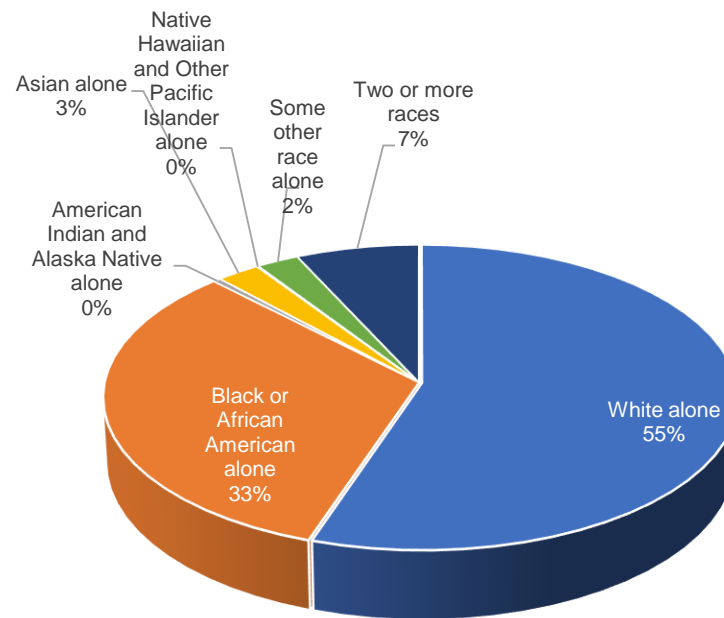
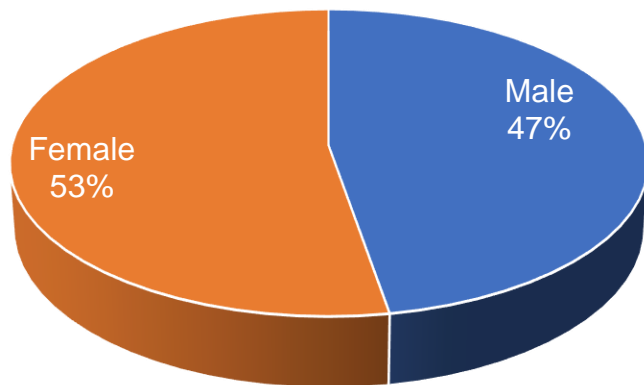
Executive Director

Chris.wells@gvs.ga.gov

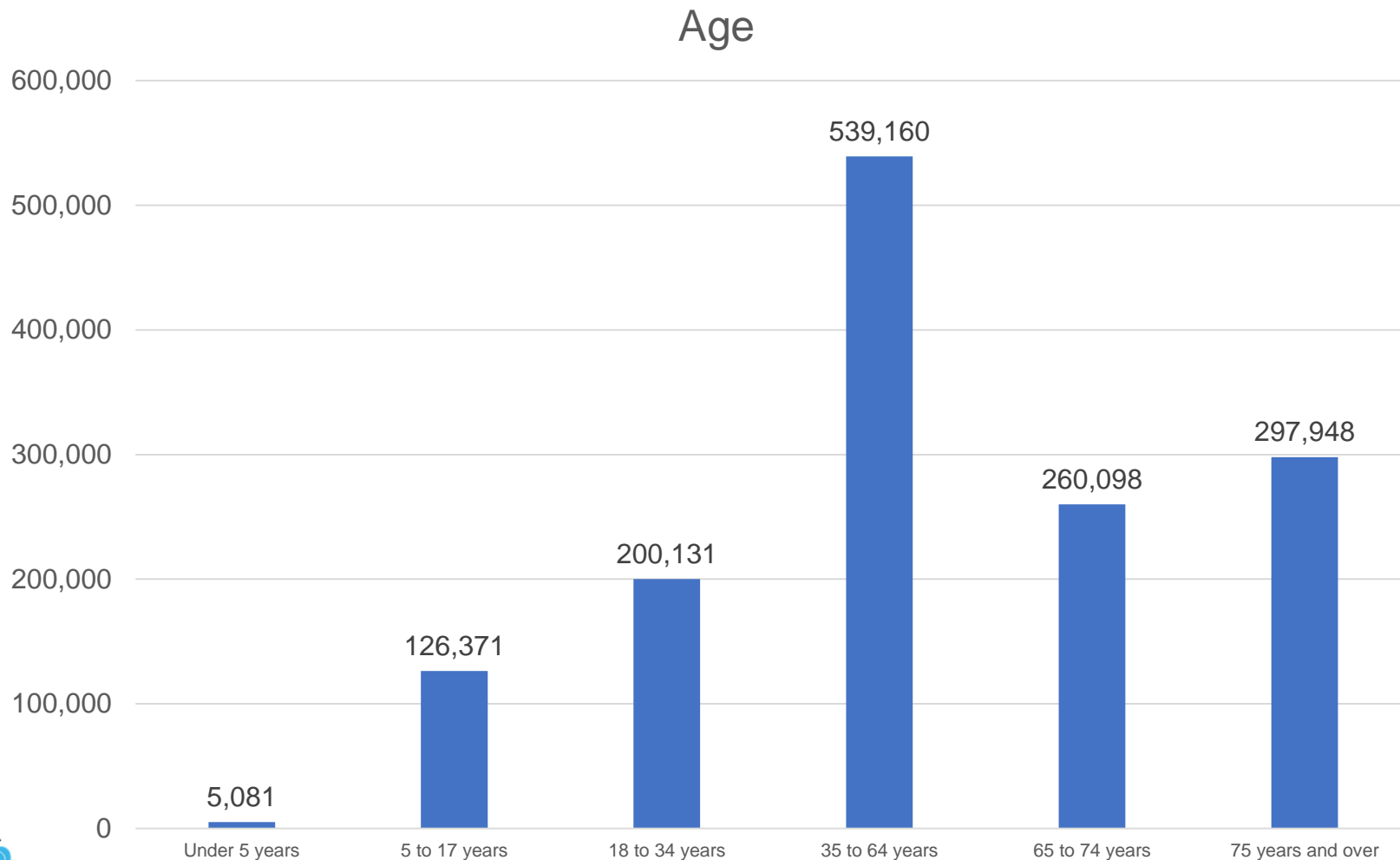


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Statistics – Georgia's Population

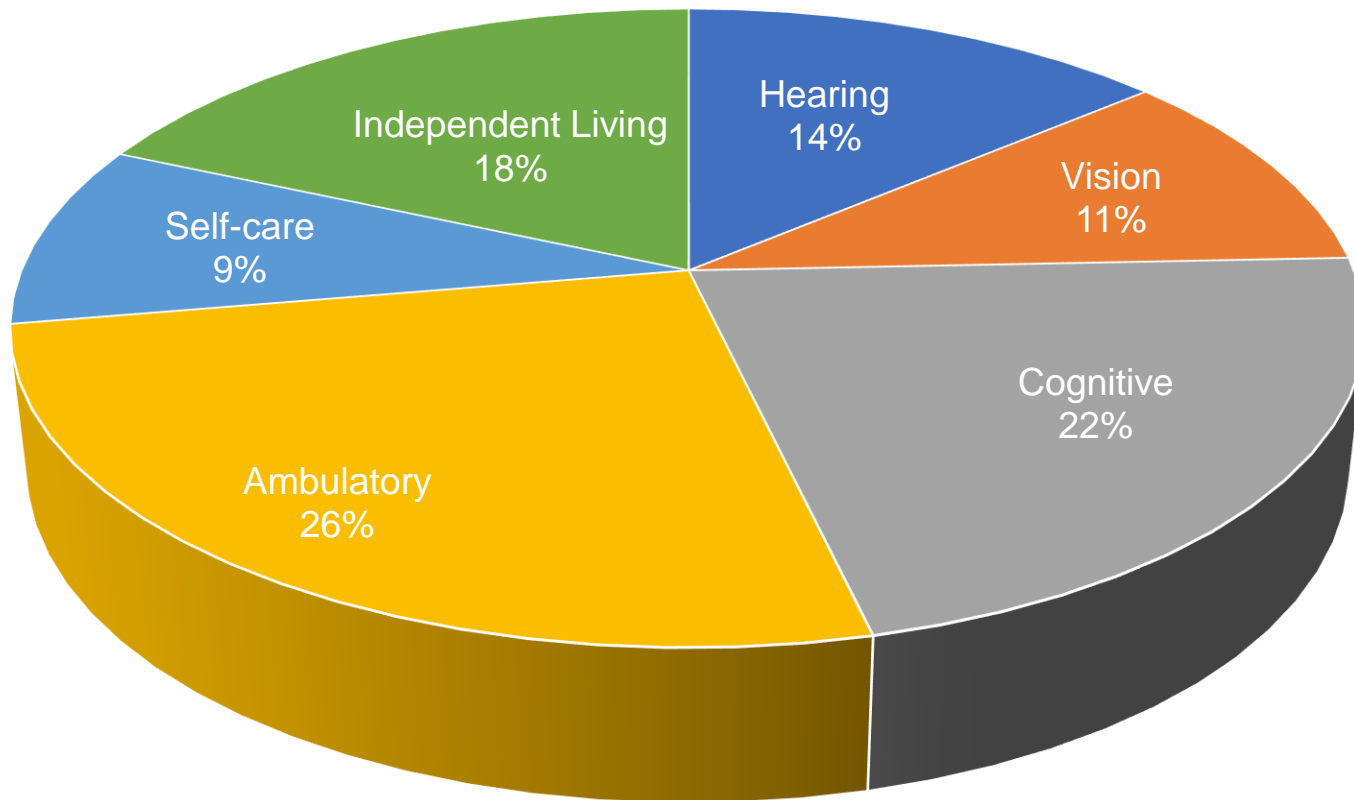
Georgians with Disabilities
1,428,789



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Statistics - Age



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Statistics - Type



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Economic Statistics

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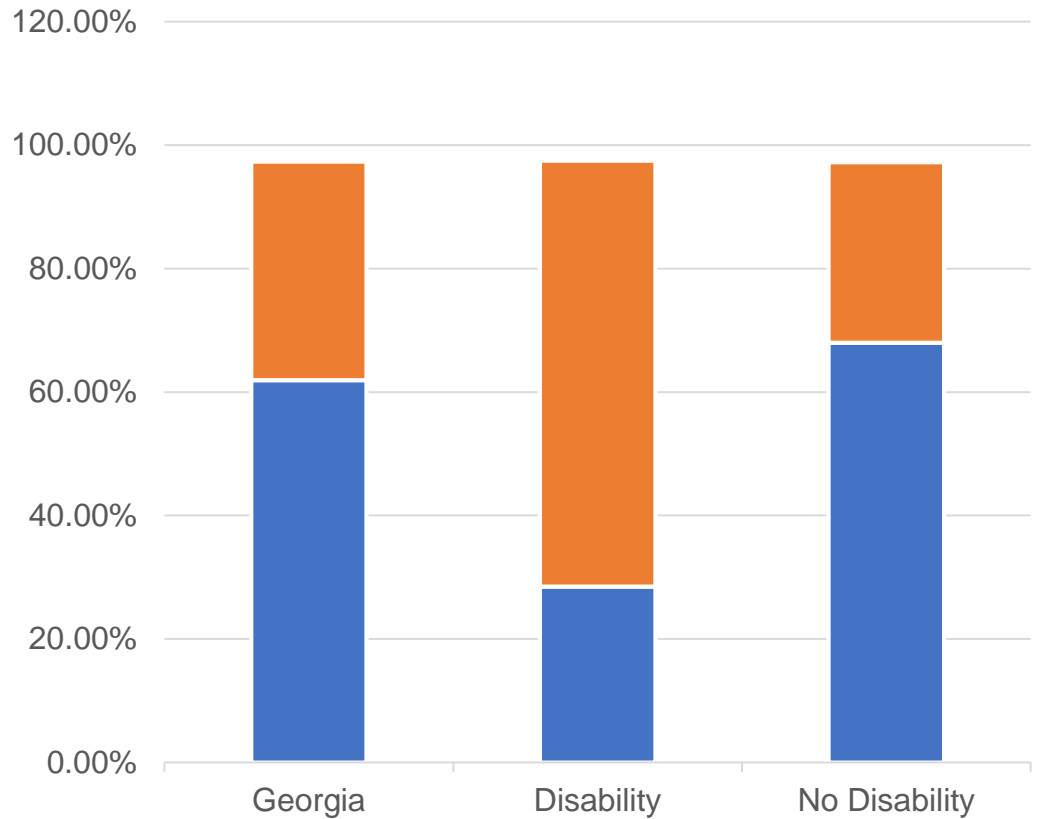
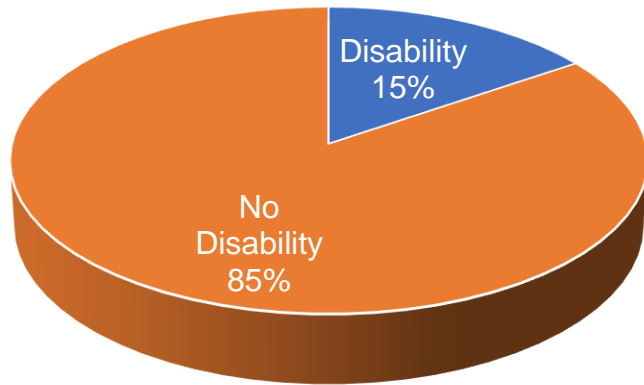
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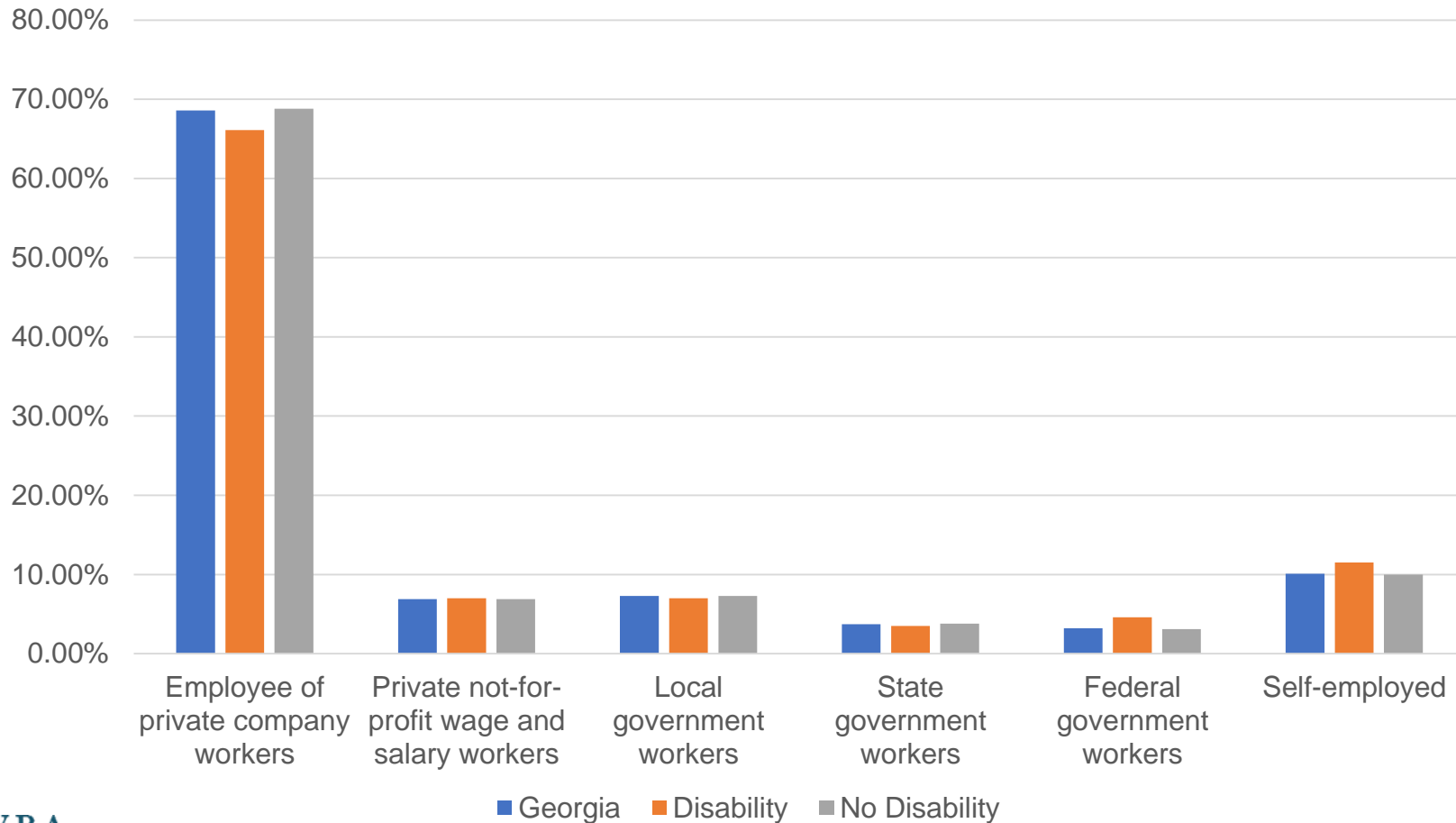
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Employment Statistics

Workforce - 8,514,662



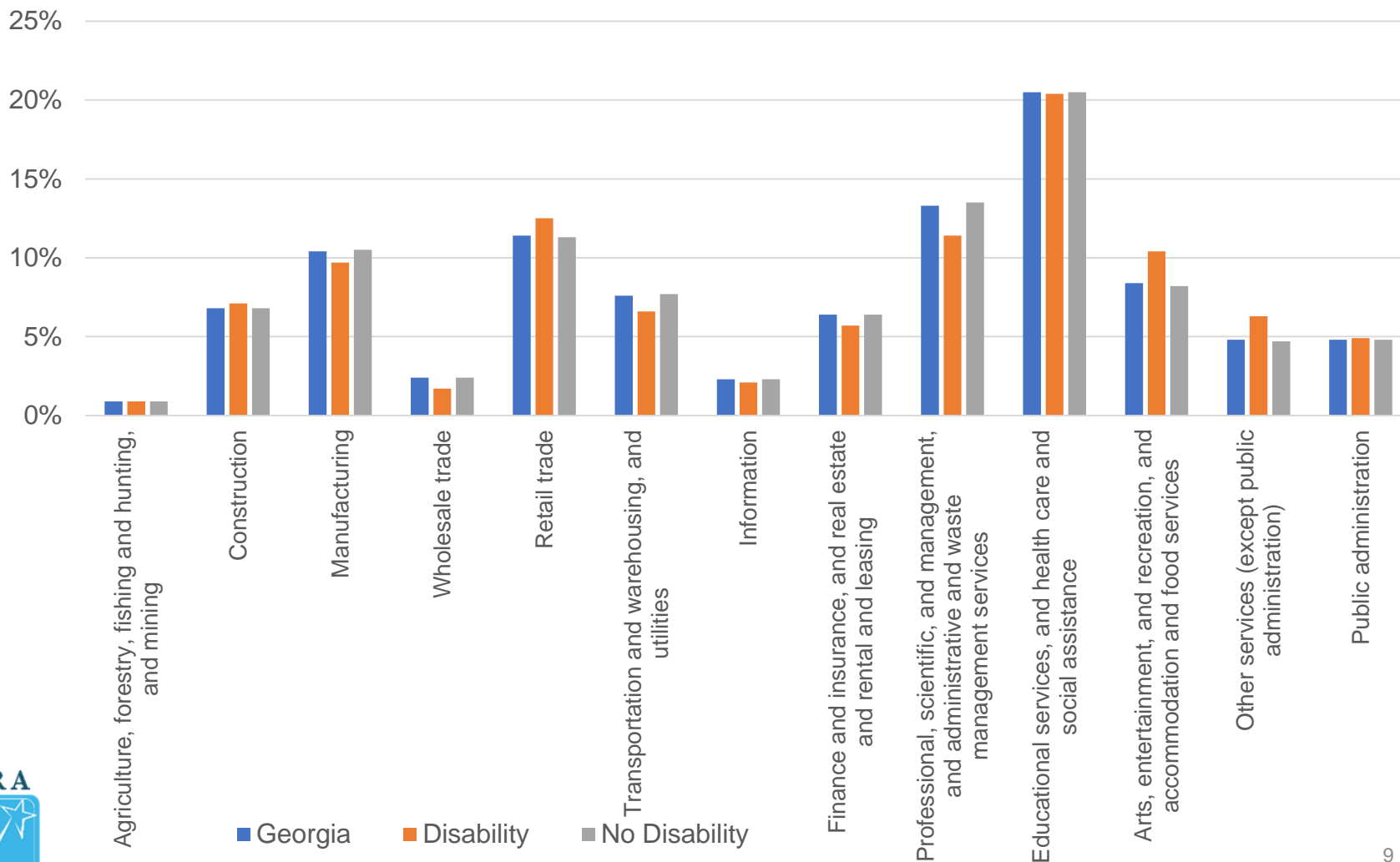
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Employment Statistics

Class of Worker



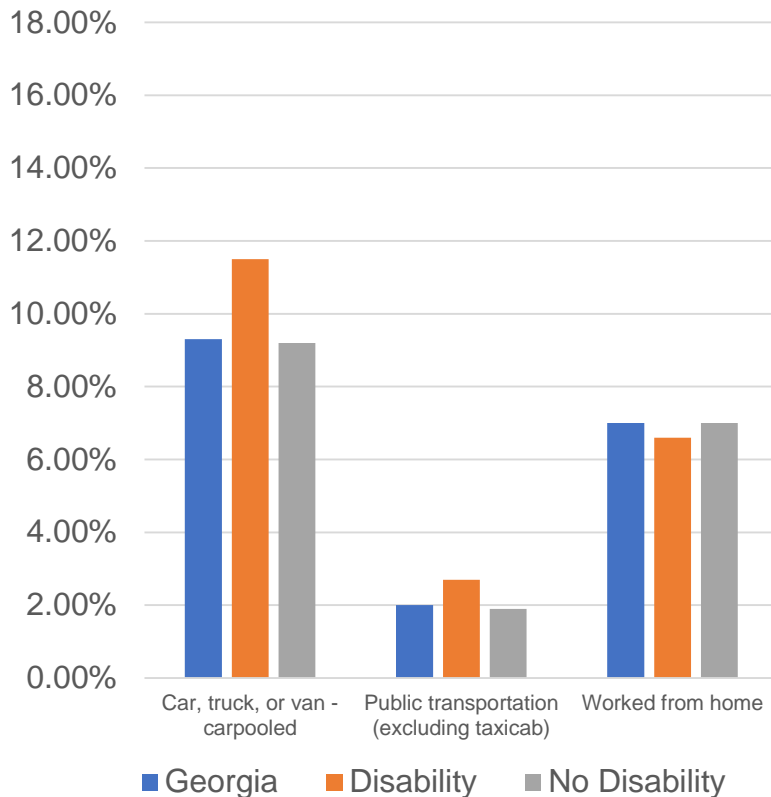
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Employment Statistics

Industry

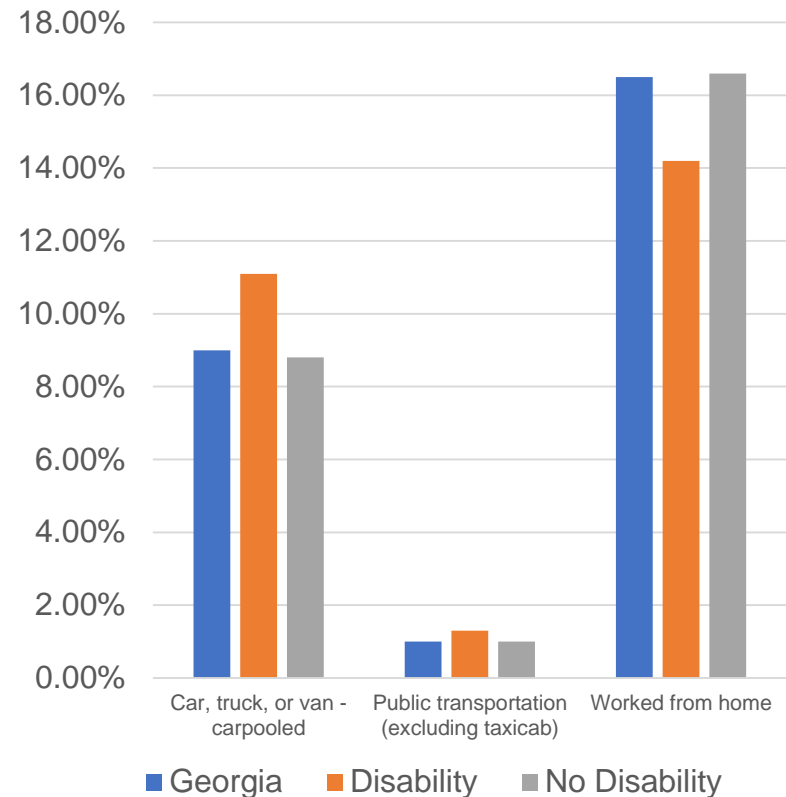


Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Disability Employment Statistics

Commuting to Work - 2019



Commuting to Work - 2022



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Overview

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Chris Wells

Executive Director

Chris.wells@gvs.ga.gov



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Overview

- **Mission**

- Serving Georgians with disabilities to empower them to live independently.

- **Vision**

- To build a client-focused agency that partners with the community to expand opportunities for Georgians with disabilities

VALUES



Collaboration

Empowering decisions through strong partnerships, active engagement, and teamwork.



Innovation

Seeking continuous growth and improvement through creative solutions, empowerment, and participation.



Compassion

Demonstrating humanity through listening and action.



Service

Providing a quality and meaningful experience to the individuals we serve and support.



Integrity

Showing a commitment to honesty and transparency in doing what is best for our clients, customers, teammates, and community.

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Eligibility for VR services:

- You have a physical or mental impairment
- Goal of Employment
- Service will help maintain, sustain, or obtain competitive integrated employment

VR Services may include, but are not limited to:

- Post-Secondary Education and Training
- Career Counseling and Guidance
- Job Coaching and Placement
- On-the-Job Training
- Job Site Assessment and Accommodations
- Modifications to homes, vehicles, and worksites
- Assistive Technology Assessments and Devices
- Medical and Psychological Assessments
- Time-Limited Medical and/or Psychological Treatment

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)

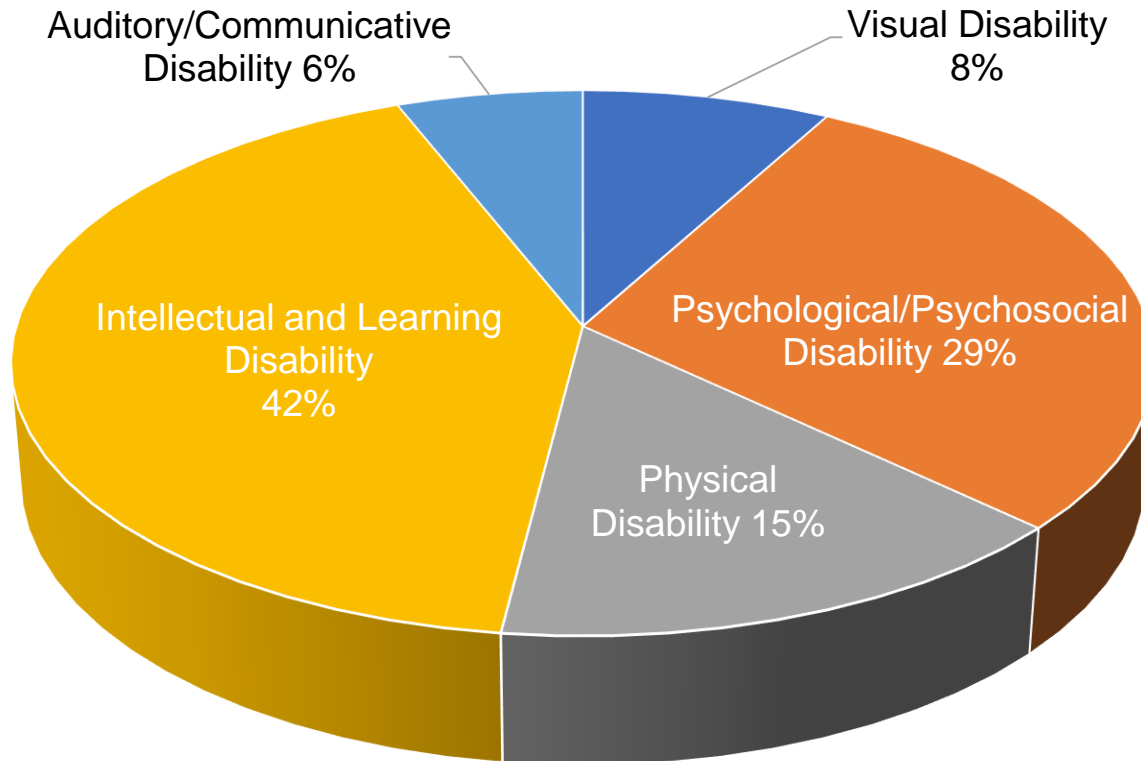
PRE-ETS Services:

- Represent the earliest set of services available for students with disabilities who are eligible or potentially eligible for VR services,
- Are short-term in nature, and
- Are designed to help students identify career interests, which may be further explored through additional vocational rehabilitation (VR) services, such as transition services and other individualized VR services.

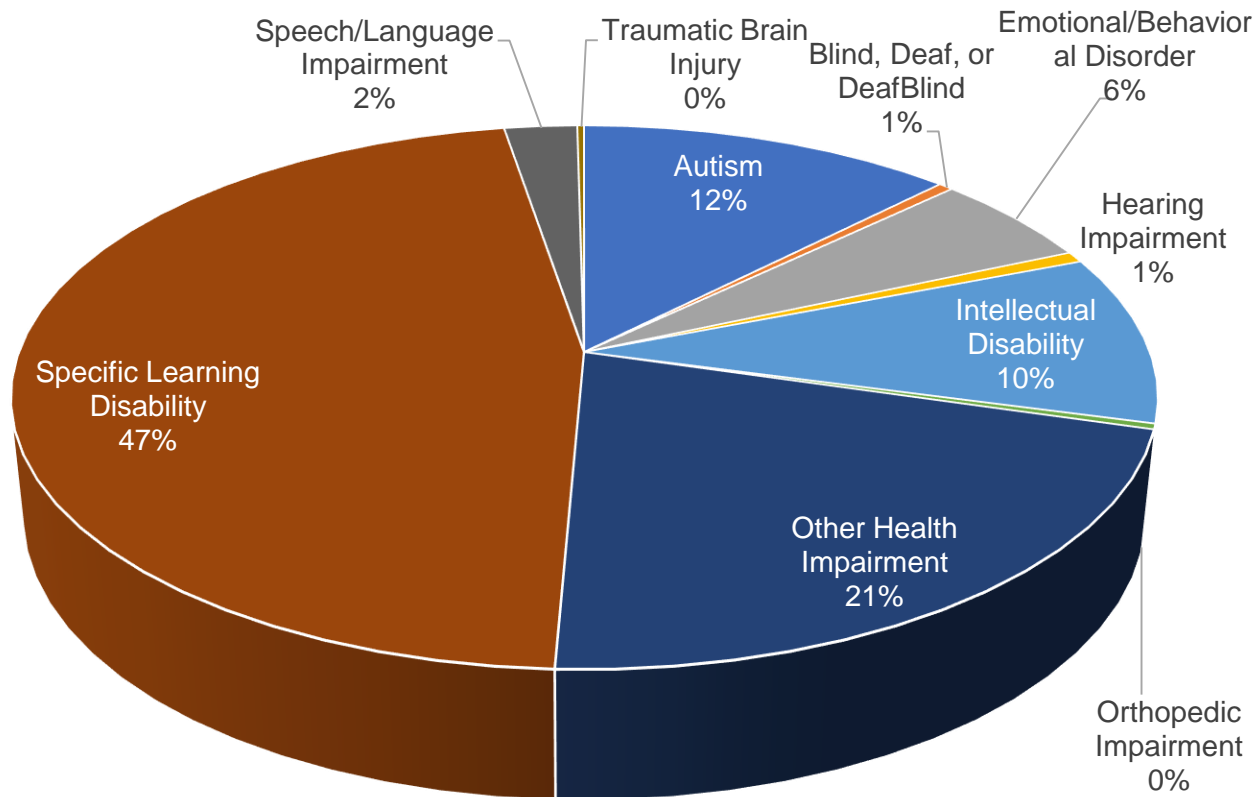
Eligibility for Pre-Employment Transition

- Students receiving special education services who have an IEP, 504 plan, or a documented disability,
- Age 14 to age 21, and
- Enrolled in a recognized educational program.

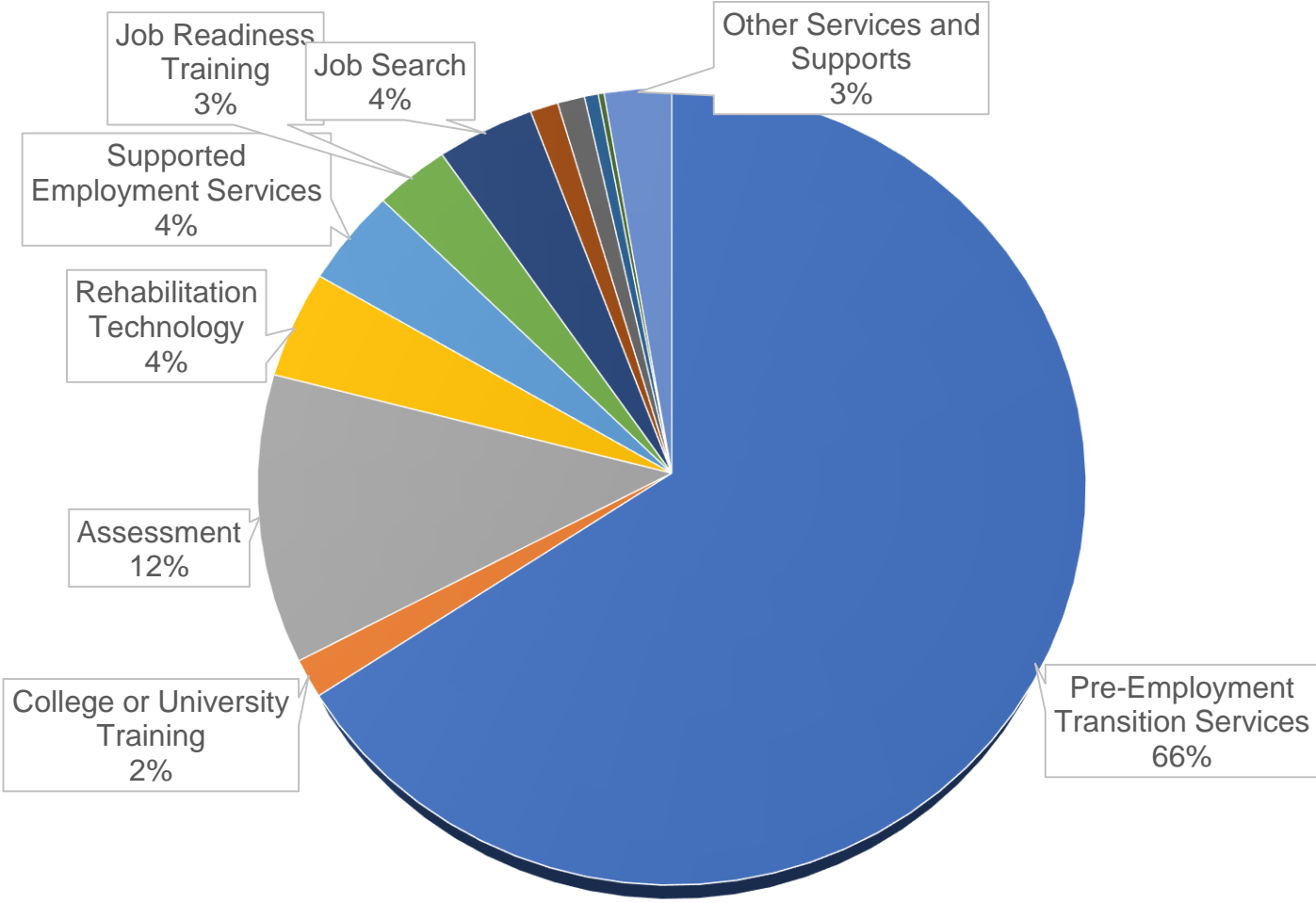
Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Client Composition



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Student Composition



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Services Provided



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency PRE-ETS

PRE-ETS

- Job Exploration Counseling
- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Postsecondary Education Counseling
- Workplace Readiness Training
- Instruction in Self-Advocacy

Partnered with the Atlanta Braves

- First-ever Agency hosted transition enterprise event
- Provided career exploration, training, and other opportunities to 1,300 high school students with disabilities from across the state at Truist Park on June 30, 2024.

Partnered with the Georgia National Fair in Perry, GA last October for outreach event, “Welcoming Our Workforce” or “WOW” Wednesday, in recognition of Disability Employment Awareness Month and in support of GVRA’s statewide awareness campaign. Between 18,000 to 20,000 people attended the fair on that day.



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transition Services

Roosevelt Warm Springs (RWS)/Cave Spring Center (CSC)



RWS Pathway Options

- Low Voltage/Light Electrical
- CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant)
- Logistics/Warehouse
- Hospitality
- Auto Detailing
- CVS/Retail
- Heavy Equipment Operator
- Groundskeeping
- Pharmacy Tech
- Construction Jumpstart
- Landscaping

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transition Services

Georgia Inclusive Postsecondary Education Programs

1. Kennesaw State University - [Academy for Inclusive Learning and Social Growth](#)
2. East Georgia State College - [CHOICE Program](#)
3. Georgia Tech - [Excel Program](#)
4. Columbus State University - [GOALS Program](#)
5. University of Georgia - [Destination Dawgs](#)
6. Albany Technical College - [LEAP Program](#)
7. Georgia State University - [The Inclusive Digital Expression and Literacy \(IDEAL\) Program](#)
8. Georgia Southern University - [EAGLE Academy](#)
9. **Berry College - Program for Inclusive Learning** - [Berry IPSE](#)
10. **Georgia College & State University** - [GC THRIVE](#)

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Transition Services

Bud McCall Post-Secondary Vocational Rehabilitation Grant

- Effective January 2024, GVRA began offering the Bud McCall grant to students, with disabilities seeking post-secondary opportunities and other VR services.
- Undergraduate students who meet the requirements are eligible for the grant for up to five years.
- The annual grant totals up to \$17,725 per year to cover tuition, books, and maintenance costs based on eligibility.

Requirements

- Must apply for services and be determined eligible as a GVRA client
- Must provide an acceptance letter for an accredited degree program at a college or university OR a degree, diploma, or Technical Certificate of Credit (TCC) program at a technical college
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) every year
- Must apply all comparable benefits for which the individual is eligible, including Pell grants, before applying the Bud McCall Grant to their balance
- Must submit updates to include grades, student account details, and class semester to their counselor to maintain eligibility



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency Questions

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Executive Director

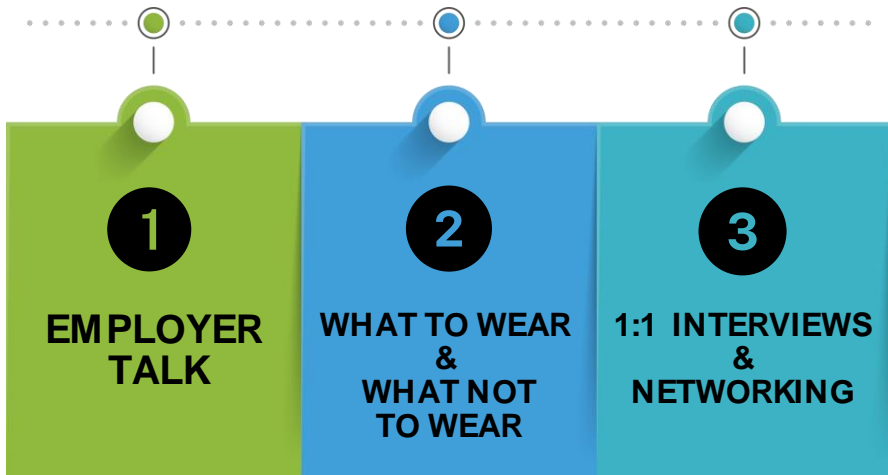
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THRIVE

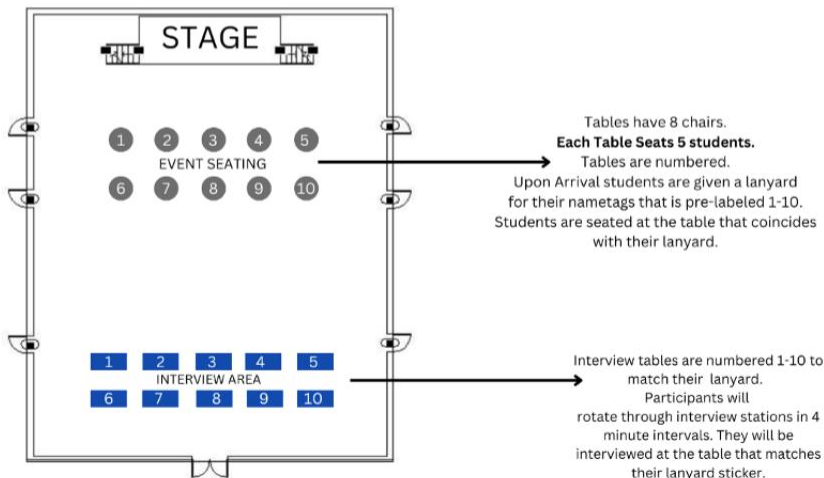
ALBANY AREA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

THRIVE is the Albany Area Chamber Foundation talent development initiative for youth with disabilities. This program is targeted to high school students with disabilities who will seek employment after high school. The vision behind this project is simple yet profound: To empower young individuals with disabilities to envision a brighter future for themselves and gain key employability skills that they can transfer to the workplace. We believe these students will be valued members of the Albany Area's work force.





LOCATION: ALBANY TECHNICAL COLLEGE



Run of Show:

ARRIVAL & SIGN IN

WELCOME

EMPLOYER TALK

Hospital
YMCA
Albany Technical College

WHAT TO/NOT TO WEAR FASHION SHOW

INTERVIEW & NETWORKING

Interviews Rotate in 4 minute intervals
Table facilitators Lead Networking

SURVEY

LUNCH

CLOSING REMARKS

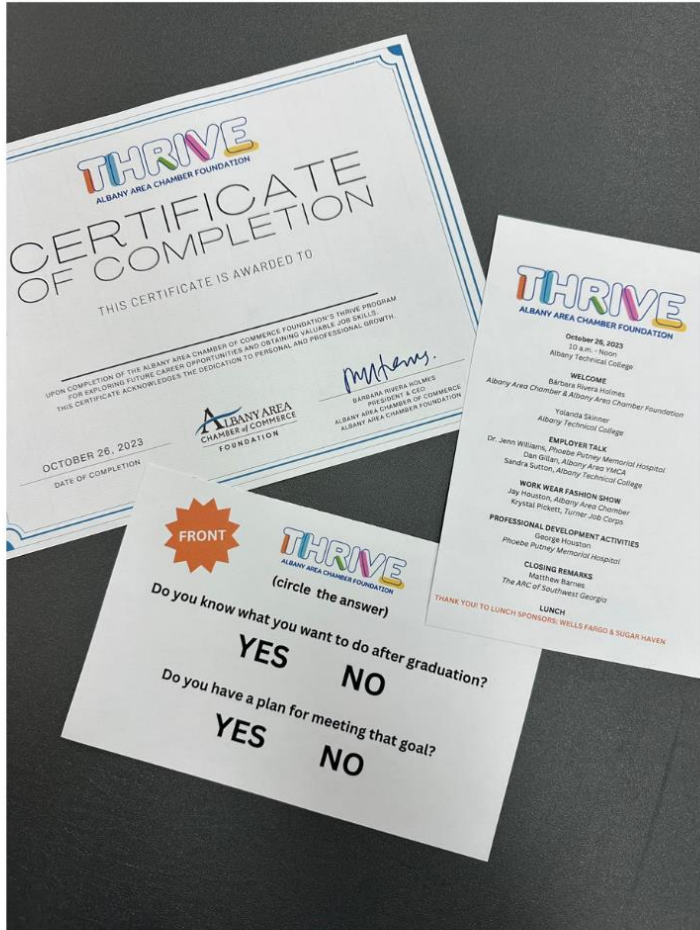


As attendees arrive, they are assigned a table and a table number. This was how they were called to their interviews. Interviews occur in 4 minute intervals and focus on workforce related content.



During 1:1 Interviews, the students at the tables work through networking card prompts with their table facilitators to focus on things like introductions, talking about their dreams/goals, etc.





Participants were given an agenda, a certificate of completion & a survey.

Survey Results showed that more than **70%** of students in attendance left THRIVE with a new plan for post-graduation.

THRIVE

ALBANY AREA CHAMBER FOUNDATION

