

# Strengthening Your Partnerships with VRS/SSB and Schools

Lead Agency Employment Liaison Meeting

November 7, 2024

- Strategies for strong partnerships
- Key collaboration points for adult and youth services
- Overview of transition services for youth

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- Kristy Howe, Employment First Lead
- Shawna Olson, Grant Manager (Employment & Family Grants)



## Strategies for strong partnerships

- Communicate proactively, not just reactively
- Keep the focus on your common goal: a seamless experience for the person
- Understand roles and responsibilities, especially for key collaboration points

# Roles and Responsibilities



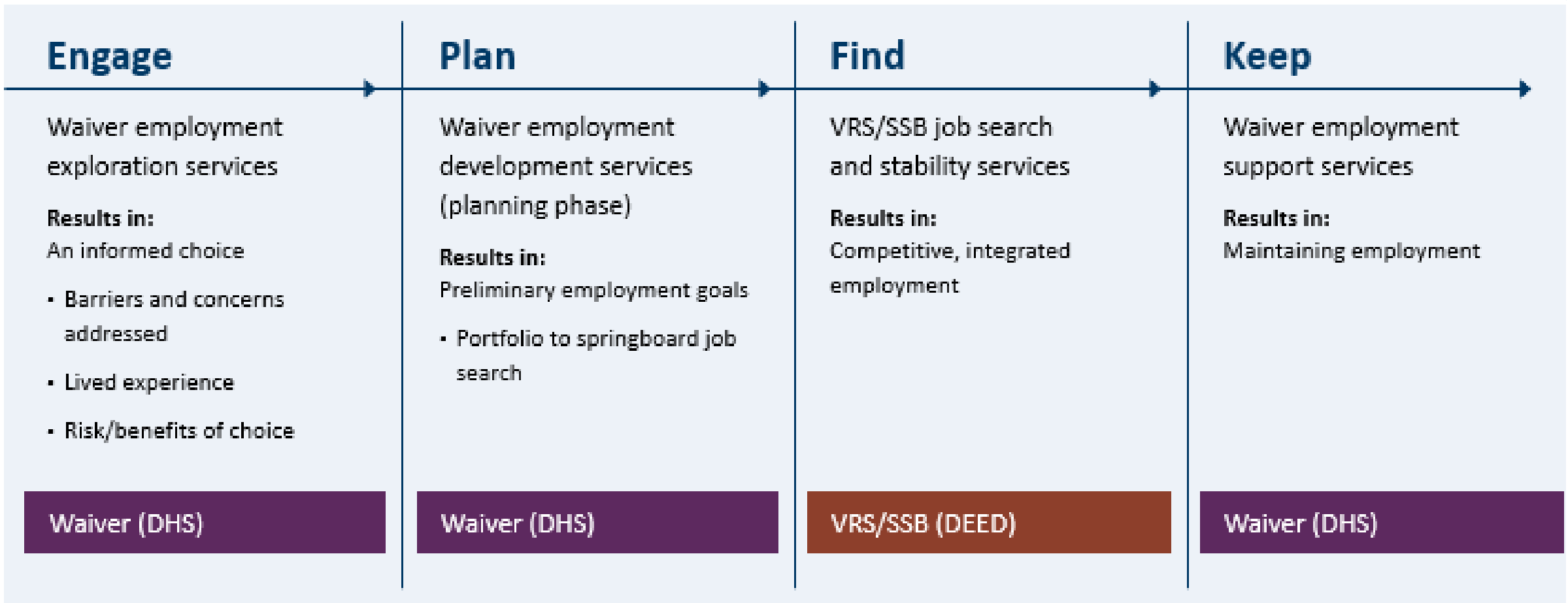
# Adult Services

Primary funding source for people on waivers who are not enrolled in high school or age 18-21 transition programming

- Waiver (DHS)
- VRS/SSB (DEED)



ADULT





# When to connect with VRS/SSB in Plan phase

Contact VRS/SSB when:

- The person or you have questions.
- You need to coordinate supports.
- The person will soon be ready to move to the Find phase.

[VRS Liaison contact list](#) (under tab “Apply”)

# Plan to Find Collaboration



## Work Toolkit – Supporting people on waivers

- Explain VRS/SSB services.
- If you have questions about when to refer, contact the VRS/SSB liaison.
- Identify the person's local VRS/SSB office.
- Use the [Common Referral Form](#) as part of the VRS/SSB application process, starting the application ideally 30 days before job search will begin.
- Encourage the person to share their employment portfolio and other important documents through their My Vault account, or other method they prefer.



# Find to Keep Collaboration



## Work Toolkit – Supporting people on waivers

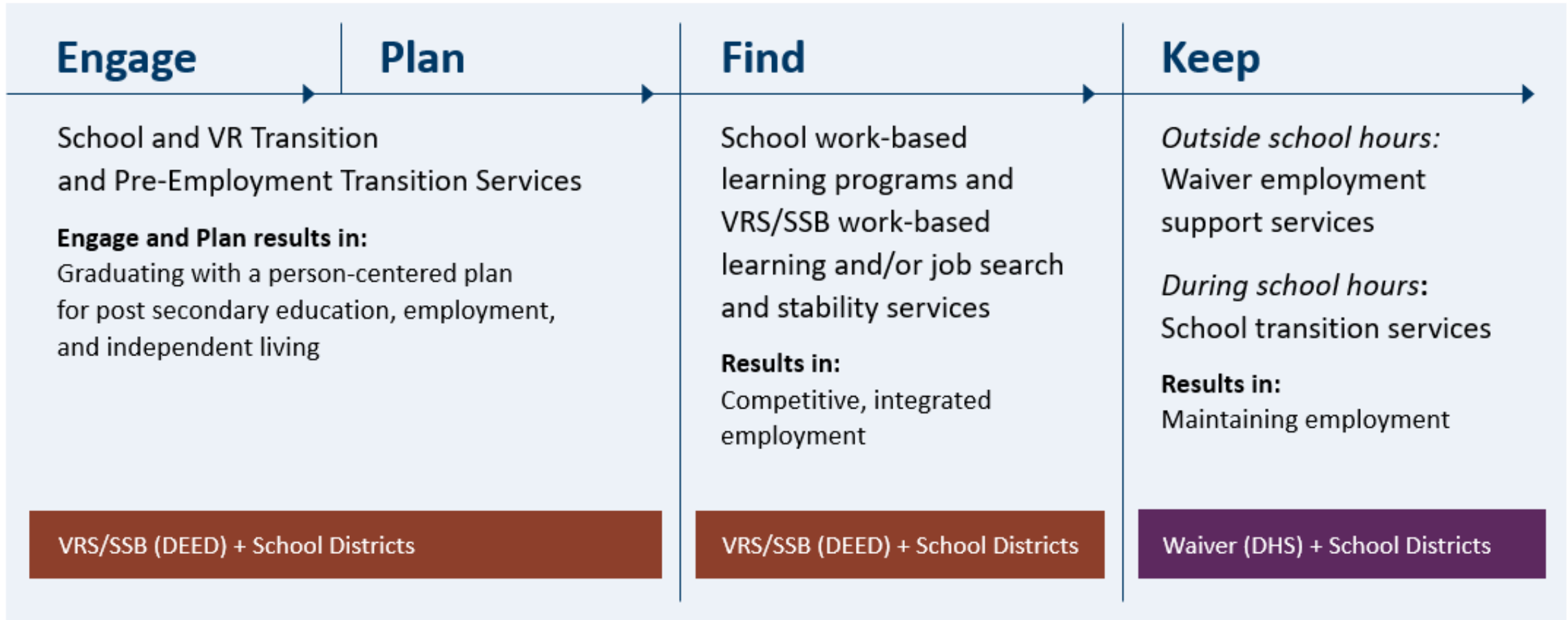
- Stay informed of progress through out the job search process.
- Stay informed about employment and stability status
- Authorize and coordinate employment support services
- Authorize any other waiver services, e.g. transportation

 Waiver (DHS) + School Districts

 VRS/SSB (DEED) + School Districts



# Student Services



Minnesota's transition framework defines high-quality transition planning and programming for youth with disabilities and those who support them.

[Disability Hub MN - About Minnesota's Youth in Transition Framework](#)





## Transition services for youth

- Special education services
- Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS):
  - Job Exploration Counseling
  - Work-Based Learning Experiences
  - Postsecondary Education Counseling
  - Workplace Readiness Training
  - Instruction in Self-Advocacy

[Youth in Transition Toolkit - The basics](#)



## Participating in IEP meetings

- IEP meetings happen at least once a year, but may be more often
- These meetings are an important collaboration point
- Case manager role:
  - Collaborate in transition planning
  - Track progress
  - Coordinate continuation of services

# Planning for graduation

- Start planning early and identify the phase the student is in
- Determine what waiver services should be authorized and take steps to ensure a smooth transition
- If a student is still in the Engage or Plan phase, discuss who will provide services after graduation



# Tools and Resources: My Vault



The Hub | DB101 | HB101

Disability HUB MN | Chat | 1-866-333-2466 | Email | youremail@email.com | My Vault | Log out

Top Topics | Your Options | Hub Tools | Get Involved | For Families | For Professionals | Search

## Welcome to My Vault

A secure way to plan, save, and share.

### Planning Paths

Vault paths are sets of short activities that help you think about your options. Your answers and results are stored securely, and you can come back and see them or change them at any time.

Go →

### Files

Upload important benefits and housing files to your Vault and share them with your Vault contacts. View your files from any computer or device.

Go →

### Saved Estimator Sessions

Find your previous Estimator sessions here.

Go →

### Contacts

Keep a list of people you work with when managing work and benefits, including counselors, family, and other people you trust. You can share files, activity results, and Estimator results with your contacts.

Go →

# My Vault

With a My Vault account, a person can complete employment activities as well as store and share relevant documents with their employment support team. This helps support professionals coordinate and deliver employment services that meet the person's needs.

- Learn more about [how to use My Vault to support people](#)
- [How to create a My Vault account](#) (PDF)
- [How to add contacts and share files](#) (PDF)





Thank You!