

# NC DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR THE BLIND POLICIES AND PROCEDURES VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

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<b>Section:</b>	<b>Preface</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
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**Formerly From: Policy Manual**

## **I. PURPOSE**

It is the purpose of this manual to provide policy for the provision of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services to individuals with visual disabilities by the N.C. Division of Services for the Blind (DSB) and Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). This manual contains requirements for conduct of the VR services program. Unless specifically cited, policies and procedures are relevant to the basic VR services program and supported employment (SE) (SES) Services. The intent is that all phases of this manual shall comply with and shall fully implement the requirements of the federal and state laws and regulations.

## **II. AGENCY MISSION**

The mission of the DSB is to enable individuals who are blind and visually impaired to achieve their goals of independence and employment.

## **III. AUTHORITY**

Authority for the operation of the VR services program is provided by the [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act](#) (WIOA) 2014, which replaces the *Workforce Investment Act of 1998*. This new law represents a renewed commitment to workforce development with an eye to the future through innovation and support for individual and national economic growth. It is aimed at increasing opportunities, particularly for those facing barriers to employment, and invests in the important connection between education and career preparation. It looks to the prosperity of workers and employers and focuses on the economic growth of communities, regions, and states to enhance our global competitiveness as a country. This new law states serves as an additional amendment to Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (P.L. 92-112) as amended in 1998 by P.L. 105-220 and by the N.C. General Statutes.