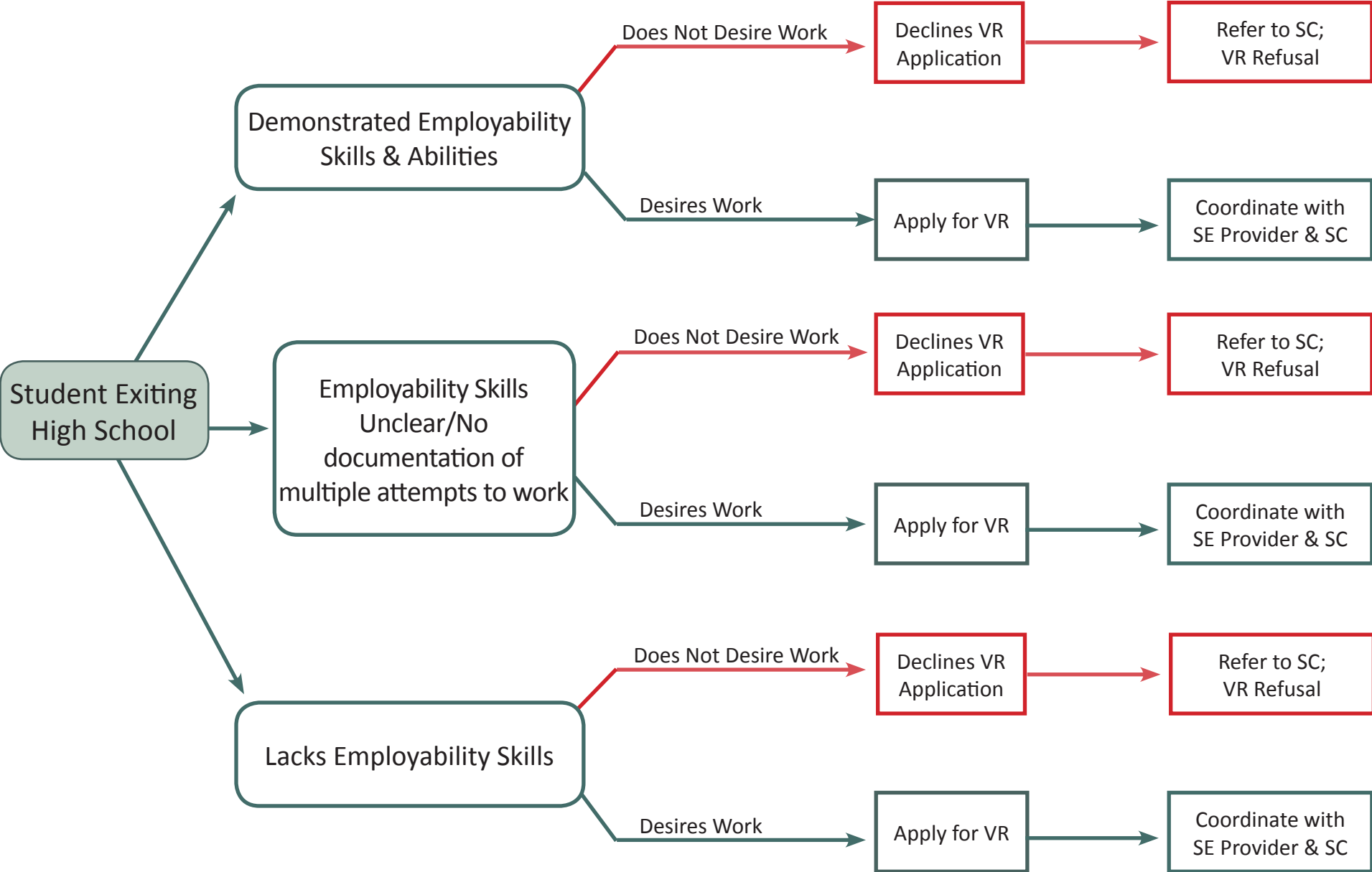


# Section 511 Decision Tree



# Informed Choice Tip Sheet

## **Q: I have tried work multiple times and lack employability skills. I do not want to work or apply for Nebraska VR.**

A: Employment may not be a priority at this time or an option for everyone. *Self-Determination* means individuals are the primary decision makers in their lives and pursue what is important to them and have a meaningful role in the community, and choosing whether to pursue an employment goal is one decision people must make. The choice to work or not should be an informed one and VR can help to ensure that occurs, as follows:

VR staff have access to exploration and assessment tools for all abilities. This free assessment summarizes a person's current vocational, interpersonal/social skills and daily living strengths and needs, so that an informed decision about whether to pursue competitive integrated employment can be made.

This summary is also helpful to the Medicaid AD/DD Waiver Service Coordinator in the team's development of the ISP document, by guiding the Service Provider Agency or Independent Provider in developing individualized goals and training to reach them.

## **Q: What if I decide not to apply to Nebraska VR?**

A: You may choose not to apply for yourself or an individual for whom you are responsible, but be aware of the following:

- Declining VR services is considered by DD to be a VR Refusal. You will be asked to sign a VR Refusal form, which will be sent to your DD Service Coordinator and Service Provider. The VR referral is closed.
- Medicaid Waiver Services may be impacted by this decision. Talk to your DD Service Coordinator for more information.
- Access to special or sub-minimum wage employment options are not available until age 25.
- If you change your mind, you may apply to Nebraska VR at any time.

## **Q: If I decide to apply for Nebraska VR, what can I expect?**

A: After application is received, the *Eligibility* process starts. Steps are individualized but *may* include:

- Meeting to gather more information and identify 'Next Steps'
- Request for additional school, medical, and past work records
- Discussion of technology and personal care supports
- Trial Work Experience (only if needed to determine eligibility and/or priority group)

After Eligibility **and** Priority Group is determined, an offer will be extended to remain on VR waitlist during an Order of Selection. You **must** let VR staff know you wish to remain on the waitlist. When funding becomes available, priority is given to those in Priority Group 1, by date of application. You will be contacted via letter sent to the address on the VR application. Please respond as soon as possible and within 30 days.

Once off the wait list, possible 'Next Step' options may include:

- Work and daily living interests, skills, and ability exploration
- Benefits Orientation and Assessment (information on how work will impact local, state, and federal benefits)
- Job Shadow/Informational Interview
- Business tours
- On-the-Job Evaluation (OJE)  
(Planned exploration and activities will be coordinated with your entire Team.)
- Pre-Employment Transition Services, where applicable

**For additional information, please contact your local Nebraska VR staff**

**For general questions on community-based services, contact Developmental Disabilities staff at <http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/DD-Contact-Us.aspx> or 877-667-6266**