

Disabilities and Employment

School to Workforce Transition

Volusia County Schools (VCS) provides transition training for students with moderate to severe disabilities pursuing a special diploma who want to go to work via Community Based Instruction (CBI) and Supported Competitive Employment (SCE). Students participate in CBI during the school years with progressive emphasis and involvement in CBI as they advance through their school years.

Students who graduate can elect to return to school until their 22nd birthday and may spend 85% or more of their school day in Community Based Work Experiences. Students participate in a variety of work settings to gain experience, develop skills and refine their interests.

Students ready to enter employment can participate in SCE. In their last two years of school, students work as part of a team with their family, job coach, agency representatives and others to locate employment. The team then assists the student through each phase of the employment process as well as setting up accommodations, if needed, resolving transportation issues and becoming as independent as possible.

The Third Party Cooperative Arrangement (TPCA) through Vocational Rehabilitation allows selected VCS job coaches to place students in unpaid work experience outside of the school setting. Students who could benefit from job training in a less structured setting are good candidates for this program.

During the 2010-11 school year, 63 Volusia County students participated in paid and/or unpaid work experiences via SCE and/or TPCA. Many of these students participated in more than one work experience setting.

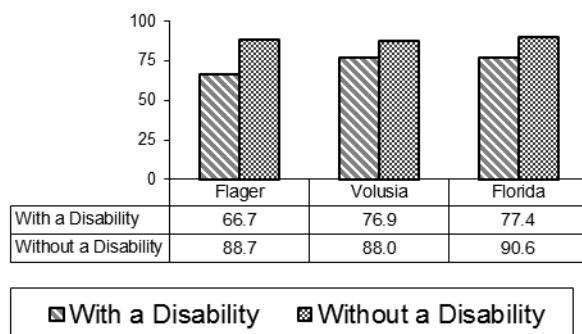
Source: Volusia County Schools

Disabilities and Employment

The chart below measures the percent of persons with and without a disability who were in the labor force and employed in 2009 (ages 18-64 years).

This is important because persons with disabilities can contribute equally to the work force and community as well as benefit economically and socially.

Percent Employed (of those who are in the labor force)



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2009

Community Based Organizations that Offer Employment Assistance

There is an array of community based organizations that provide employment assistance for people with disabilities. Below are examples with brief descriptions.

- Arc of Volusia**
 Assists adults with developmental disabilities to build skills, independence, and education through vocational, community inclusion, supported independent living and supported employment programs.
- Center for Business Excellence (CBE)**
 Partners with economic development and educational institutions to provide employment-related services to businesses and individuals. Oversees three One-Stop Employment Centers in Volusia and Flagler Counties.
- Easter Seals Volusia Flagler**
 Assists individuals who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing with a focus on bridging the communication gap. Over 30 individuals have obtained employment.
- Goodwill Self Sufficiency Center**
 Individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment are provided placement assistance such as counseling, training, and short-term job coaching.
- UCP of East Central Florida**
 Provide tiered services that include supported employment, competitive job placement and transitional employment. Outcome-driven programs are individualized and comprehensive. Since their inception, they have placed over 3,500 individuals with disabilities into employment.

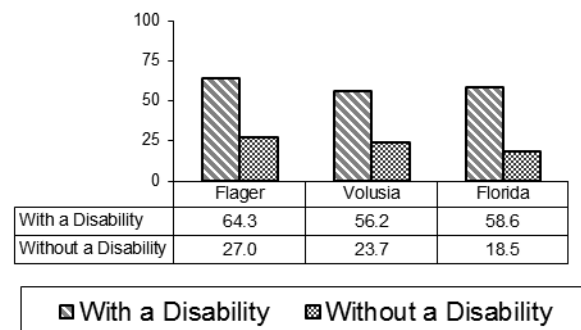
Sources: See Data Sources pages 66-67.

Disabilities and the Labor Force

The chart below measures the percent of persons with and without a disability who were not in the labor force in 2009 (ages 18-64 years).

This is important because reducing the barriers to entering the workforce could benefit individuals as well as the local economy.

Percent not in the Labor Force



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey 2009