**What is Vocational Evaluation?**

Vocational evaluation (VE) first appeared in professional literature in 1947 (Thomas, 1996). Since the 1960s, it has been utilized in varying degrees in the public vocational rehabilitation (VR) program to support individual employment plans (IEPs) for consumers. VE has been provided by employees of the public program, not-for-profit community rehabilitation programs, for-profit vocational providers, public schools and various college settings. VE has been used as a critical component of the public rehabilitation process to ensure customer success.

Various pieces of legislation have had an impact on the practice of evaluation. The 1992 and 1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act bring “informed customer choice” to the forefront in public sector VR. The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998 defined assessment as part of the core services and as part of the intensive services critical to the local “one stop.” Vocational assessment was deemed potentially important for all workforce customers, not just individuals with disabilities.

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