



## ***Information About***

### **Benefits Planning for Students**

#### **Why is Benefits Planning Important?**

Benefits Planning, Assistance, and Outreach is a program where Benefits Specialists can give you information about how your Social Security check and health insurance is affected by work. There are Benefits Specialists across the state who can give you the information you need to make decisions about work.

#### **What Can a Benefits Specialist Do for Me?**

Benefits Specialists can help you figure out exactly what will happen to your benefits if you go to work, stop work, or change the amount of work you do. You may want to work but you may be worried about whether you can work and still receive benefits (money and health insurance) from the Social Security Administration. Many people believe that their benefits will automatically stop if they go to work. This is not true.

#### **How Can I Find a Benefits Specialist in My Area?**

If you would like the name and number of your Benefits Specialist, call the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy (VOPA) at (800) 552-3962 (toll-free). Someone from VOPA will be happy to help you get in touch with your Benefits Specialist.

If you have access to the internet, you may get more information by visiting the Social Security Administration's web site at: [www.ssa.gov/work](http://www.ssa.gov/work).

You may also download free software that will help you make the most of your visit with a Benefits Specialist. The software and instructions for using it can be found at: [www.workworld.org](http://www.workworld.org). You may receive training on how to use the software. You may learn more about the training on the Workworld web site.

If you need further information, please feel free to contact us.

Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy  
1910 Byrd Avenue, Suite 5  
Richmond, Virginia 23230  
800-552-3962 (Toll-Free in Virginia) (Voice and TTY)  
804-225-2042 (Voice and TTY)

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***VOPA publications are available in alternate format, upon request.***