

# Transition to Adulthood in Georgia

## Five Things to Do to Prepare for the End of School

In Georgia, students can receive special-education services until age 22, but the process of planning for transition starts long before that. Here are five things to do to help you prepare for your child's [transition to adulthood](#) in Georgia and make sure there's something waiting after school is done.

- 1.** Expect transition planning to be a part of your child's IEP by his or her sixteenth birthday if not before. The "[Transition to Life After High School](#)" fact sheet downloadable from the Polk School District site has a brief overview of the transition process, and you can find more resources on the [Parent to Parent of Georgia](#) site. Your child should be involved in IEP meetings at this point if at all possible, even if it's a brief appearance to talk about work or post-high-school educational goals.
- 2.** Prepare for the transfer of rights to your child at age 18, the age of majority in Georgia. If your child will need you to continue to be in charge of his or her educational program, you will need to consult with a lawyer to look into [guardianship or power of attorney](#). Your school district may continue to include you and consult with you, depending on how your relationship has been, but legally they only have to get your child's approval from this point on unless you have created a legal standing for yourself.
- 3.** Work with your child's [IEP team](#) and the school's transition coordinator to determine whether your student should graduate with his or her age peers or stay in school additional years or all the way until eligibility ends at age 22. Be sure to ask what sorts of work programs are available, what your child would be doing in the classroom with those extra years, and what your child's options will be after leaving school. To get an idea of what an IEP with a transition plan should look like, you can download samples from the Department of Education's [transition page](#), including a [blank plan form](#), [forms with case studies](#), a [transition documentation checklist](#), and [transition plan directions](#).
- 4.** Investigate state organizations that can help your child transition to work and independent living when school is over. These may include the [Vocational Rehabilitation Program](#), the [Georgia Interagency Transition Councils](#), and the [Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities](#).
- 5.** Contact [Parent to Parent of Georgia](#), a parent advocacy organization that offers training and information for families of children with special needs, for advice on helping your child through this transition. On the group's website, you can find a [transition page](#) that offers information about employment programs and college