

TRANSITION SERVICE PLANS

Why is Transition Planning Important?

Transition planning is a key step in preparing for what happens when a student with disabilities leaves high school. It is important to begin thinking about their transition to adult life as early as possible. Successful transition requires early planning and the active involvement of both the student and family.

What is a Transition Service Plan?

The Transition Service Plan is part of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) and must be in place by age 16 or the student's entry into 9th grade, whichever comes first. This plan, developed by the IEP team, will lay the foundation for how the student will live independently, gain employment, or pursue further education after high school. The Transition Service Plan should be reviewed and revised annually.

What is Included in the Transition Service Plan?

- **Preferences, Strengths, Interests and Course of Study**
 - Based on the student's Present Level of Performance and Age Appropriate Transition Assessment.
 - Diploma the student is expected to receive
 - Student's chosen career pathway or other desired types of courses/classes/programs.
- **Desired Measurable Postsecondary/Outcome Completion Goals**
 - Goals to be achieved after graduation including a completion goal for Education/Training and Employment.
 - Additional goals related to independent living, as appropriate.
- **Transition Goals, Activities, Agencies Involved**
 - Goals to address each of the desired measurable postsecondary/outcome completion goals (education/training, employment, and independent living, as appropriate).
 - Additional goals may address areas such as community participation, adult living and post-school options, related services, and daily living skills.

Key Points to Know:

- The school will conduct age appropriate transition assessments to create appropriate and measurable postsecondary goals.
- Assessments and data from other sources may also be useful in transition planning.
- Students must be invited to all meetings where transition planning is discussed so they can share their choices for the future and be prepared to become the decision-maker at age 18. The IEP team must make sure the student's interests and desires are considered even if they cannot attend the meeting.



More Key Points to Know:

- Students must be notified by age 17 that all rights, including educational rights, will be transferred to them on their 18th birthday. This means the student will be the decision-maker. Parents/guardians will still receive notice about any meetings, evaluations, placement changes, IEP changes or eligibility changes.
- When the student graduates with a regular high school diploma or exits at age 22, the school will provide a Summary of Performance (SOP) which includes current academic achievements, functional performance, and recommendations for achieving life goals.

Tips for Families:

- Begin planning for your child's transition to life after high school as early as possible. This includes making choices about and advocating for the types of classes your child will take so that he/she can get a regular high school diploma if possible. If you wait until your child is in middle school or high school to try to get "on track" for a regular diploma, it will be too late!!
- Build your child's self-determination and self-advocacy skills. Help your child learn how to talk about their disability and to ask for the support or accommodations they need.
- Start to become knowledgeable about the protections provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which will apply to your child after high school.
- Support and encourage your child as they navigate the transition into adulthood.
- Consider what your child wants to do with their life. What are their dreams and goals? Be prepared to discuss these goals during transition planning meetings. Your vision and your child's vision for the future should drive the transition goals for your child.
- If your child plans to go to college, is he or she taking the courses needed to meet the college entrance requirements?
- Help your child develop social relationships and opportunities for recreation.



Where to go for more information:

Parent to Parent of Georgia

770 451-5484 or 800-229-2038

www.p2pga.org

GA Department of Education, Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports 404 656-

3963 or 800-311-3627 and ask to be transferred to Special Education

http://www.gadoe.org/ci_exceptional.aspx

Additional resources: Contact the Special Education Director for your school system.



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