

Questions About the Transition of Your Child with Special Needs from School to Adulthood

Planning your child's transition from adolescence to adulthood is one of the most important things you can do to pave the way to a successful future. The classes your child chooses now can effect their choices later on in life. Knowing what to ask and when will assist you and your child in the transition process.

What is transition?

The term "transition" means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;

Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

Retrieved from Dept. of Ed.: <http://idea.ed.gov/explore/view/p/%2Croot%2Cdynamic%2CTopicalBrief%2C17%2C>

When should transition planning begin?

Measurable post-secondary goals and recommendations for transition services and activities must be included in each student's IEP beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student is age 15 (and at a younger age, if determined appropriate), and updated annually. Staff at PTAC believe that transition planning begins much earlier in a child's academic career and parents need to be aware that academic choices made as early as grade school will effect your child's transition plan.

Retrieved from: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/transitionplanning-2011.htm>

Who is involved in transition planning?

The process of transition planning requires a partnership among the student, family and school, and, as appropriate, other agencies that can provide transition activities for the student. By its very nature, transition planning is a collaborative effort and must be thought of as an on-going process across multiple school years.

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How can I prepare my child for transition?

- Help your child learn to advocate for themselves and clearly communicate their wants and needs in a positively.
- Help your child create a system to keep their work organized.
- If your child is planning on attending college, you and your child should attend college fairs and ask the officials about their special needs programs and course majors that are available.



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