



FERRIS ISD

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*Ferris ISD is not endorsing the programs or information that will be shared.
We are sharing the information as a courtesy.

Introduction to Transition Services at Ferris ISD

The transition services at Ferris ISD are designed to help students with their transition in school and life after high school. The goal of the transition program is to help students learn independent living skills, community participation, research post-secondary education options, and employability skills. We want all the students in special programs to be prepared for life after they leave Ferris ISD.

Transition services will begin at the age of 14. The transition services will be addressed in the student's ARD meeting and should be reviewed and revised every year to provide the best opportunity for the student. The input from the student, parents, and teachers is very important for the transition planning for the student's future.

This packet will provide information that will help the families and students gain the information needed for the student's transition. Ferris ISD doesn't endorse any of the agencies or programs that are provided in this packet. We encourage the families to review information periodically throughout your student's education. It is important to plan for the future now, so that your child will be able to get the services they need when they are no longer in the school system.

IDEA 2004 Transition Service Laws

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA 2004) defines transition services as a “coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that is designed to be within a results-oriented process”. IDEA 2004 requires that transition services and activities must be included in the development of the IEP no later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 14, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team.

Texas requirements for transition services are aligned to the federal requirements included in IDEA 2004. However, state law and rules include additional requirements for the provision of transition services for students receiving special education services in Texas. A new state law passed in the summer of 2011 requires that “appropriate state transition planning must begin for a student not later than when the student reaches 14 years of age” (SB 1788, 06/17/2011). The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) describes the following nine issues important to the development of the Individualized Education Program (IEP) for students receiving special education services.

1. Appropriate student involvement in the student's transition to life outside the public school system
2. If the student is younger than 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition
3. If the student is at least 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition, if the parent is invited to participate by the student or the school district in which the student is enrolled
4. Any postsecondary education options
5. A functional vocational evaluation
6. Employment goals and objectives
7. If the student is at least 18 years of age, the availability of age-appropriate instructional environments
8. Independent living goals and objectives
9. Appropriate circumstances for referring a student or the student's parents to a governmental agency for services.

Resource: Transition in Texas.

Transition Map after High School

Student has completed his/her graduation credit requirement at FHS
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Choices

1. Student has employability and self-help skills that allow him/her to obtain and retain employment and does not need FHS to continue assist them in their transition from high school to adult life.	2. Student has a full-time or part-time job based on the student's interest and abilities. The student has self-help skills and doesn't need continued assistance from FHS in their transition from high school to adult life.	3. Student has access to an agency or organization that is not part of FHS. Examples: 1. Dallas Metrocare 2. TWS (new DARS) Texas Workforce Solutions 3. Community College 4. 4 year College	4. Student is 22 years old and has met all IEP goals at FHS
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Texas Driving with Disability

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/texas-driving-with-disability>

What is the Texas Driving with Disability Program?

This Texas trail-blazing program focuses on improving the interaction between law enforcement and drivers with disabilities with unique communication needs. Texans now have the option to disclose "Communication Impediment" directly on the front of their Driver License or State ID or when registering their vehicle through the DMV. This will alert the trained officer of an individual who may be slower to respond or one who is deaf or hard of hearing.

Transition Planning Checklist

Ferris ISD

(Checklist is suggested, but not required. Other items may be added)

Age 0-14

- ___ Start thinking of your child's future after high school.
- ___ Contact Metrocare to get on the Medicaid Waiting List
877-283-2121 (toll free)
- ___ Discuss Medical Assistance, SSI and waiver options at HHS
- ___ Practice Independent Living Skills
- ___ Looking into wills and special need trusts

Age 14-15

Beginning of Transition Planning

- ☐ **Begin career planning and post-secondary goals**
- ☐ **Complete the TWS application to receive pre-employment services**
- ☐ **Complete a Transition Interview/Student Profile**
- ☐ **Conduct IEP/Transition Planning meeting**
- ☐ **Discuss graduation timelines**
- ☐ **Develop leisure/recreational skills and access options in the community**
- ☐ **Participate/document Community Service opportunities**
- ☐ **Become involved in high school activities**
- ☐ **Research employment and career opportunities**
- ☐ **Gather information about transition services from school and agencies**
- ☐ **Prepare for obtaining a driver's permit**
- ☐ **Explore transportation opportunities**

Age 16-17

- ___ Annual ARD meeting update post-secondary goals
- ___ Look into Guardianship (needs to start at least one year before 18)
- ___ Complete at least one career interest/skills assessments each year
- ___ Schedule visits to different agencies for life after high school life
- ___ Schedule College visits with the disability service office
- ___ Consider residential options (get on waiting lists for HHS)
- ___ Take ACT or SAT for college entrance and apply for Accommodations
- ___ Take Career Preparation course or courses of career interests
- ___ Transportation plans made for after high school
- ___ Contact your TWS VR counselor if receiving services
- ___ Establish graduation date

Age 18-21

- ___ Annual ARD meeting update post-secondary goals
- ___ Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- ___ Register for Selective Services (males)
- ___ Contact TWS VR counselor on summer options and post-high school options
- ___ Register for college/financial aid
- ___ Register to vote

Supplemental Security Income/Medicaid Waiver Programs

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

1. SSI is made for individuals with a disability that have little or no income.
2. SSI is done by Social Security Administration
3. SSI eligibility is based on disability and family income if the child's age is younger than 18 or by person's income if older than 18.
4. SSI gives a check monthly for basic needs and you receive Medicaid if you have SSI.
5. SSI PASS is for a person who saves money over \$2000, but helps them reach a work goal (college, car, apartment, etc.)
6. For more on SSI go to the website <http://www.ssa.gov/pgm/disability.htm> or call them at 1-800-772-1213
7. Social Security Office:
100 Dean Box Dr, Waxahachie, TX 75165
1-866-563-1912

Medicaid Waiver Programs

10-12+ YEAR WAITING LIST! GET ON THE LIST NOW!

Call 214-371-6639 ASK THEM TO PUT YOUR CHILD ON ALL THE LISTS.

- Medicaid eligibility is based on the child's income.
- Medicaid Waiver Programs help children live in the community.
- Keep contact information up to date.
- Check in annually with them.
- Contact Metrocare to get on the WAITING LISTS-
<https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability>

Waiting List Programs

1. [CLASS \(Community Living Assistance Support Services\)](#) - 877-438-5658

CLASS provides home- and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or a related condition. A related condition is a disability, other than an intellectual disability, that originated before age 22 and that affects a person's ability to function in daily life.

2. [MDCP \(Medically Dependent Children Program\)](#) - 877-438-5658

The program provides services to support families caring for children and young adults age 20 and younger who are medically dependent and to encourage de-institutionalization of children and young adults who reside in nursing facilities. MDCP provides respite, flexible family support services, minor home modifications, adaptive aids, transition assistance services, employment assistance, supported employment and financial management services through a STAR Kids or STAR Health managed care organization.

3. [HCS \(Home and Community based Services\)](#) - 512-794-9268

Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) provide opportunities for Medicaid recipients to receive long-term services and supports in their own home or community, rather than in an institution or isolated setting.

4. [DB/MD \(Deaf-Blind Multiple Disabilities Program\)](#) - 877-438-5658

The DBMD program provides home and community-based services to people who are deafblind with multiple disabilities as a cost-effective alternative to institutional placement. The program focuses on increasing opportunities for consumers to communicate and interact with their environment.

5. [TxHmL \(Texas Home Living\)](#) - 877-438-5658

TxHmL provides selected essential services and supports to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in their family homes or their own homes.

6. [STAR+PLUS Home and Community-based Services \(HCBS\)](#) - 1-877-782-6440

Gives services to adults over the age of 21 to keep them in their community and not in a nursing home facility.

TWC/HHS

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

1. Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehabilitation Services serves youth and students with disabilities to help prepare for post-secondary education and employment opportunities. Services are eligibility and need based.
 - a. <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students#overview>
2. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program, a state-federal partnership since 1929, helps people with disabilities prepare for, find and keep jobs. (Contact as early as 9th Grade)
 - a. Pre-Employment Transition Services - includes vocational counseling, counseling on opportunities for post-education, work-based learning experiences, including internships and on-the-job training, training in workplace and employer expectations, training in self-advocacy and social skills, and other services.
 - b. TVRC- Trusure Adams
Office- 972-937-8114
Mobile- 469-734-7530
Trusure.adams@twc.texas.gov

Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) (Formerly DADS)

1. HHS was created to administer long-term services and supports for people who are aging as well as for people with intellectual and physical disabilities. HHS also licenses and regulates providers of these services, and administers the state's Guardianship program.
2. <https://hhs.texas.gov/>
3. <https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability>
4. Provides the Medicaid Waiver Programs, Community Care Programs

Metrocare Services

1. Metrocare Services is North Texas' leading nonprofit agency dedicated to helping people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, and severe emotional problems live healthier lives. Metrocare provides a comprehensive array of individually-tailored services to help the people they serve toward meaningful and satisfying lives.
<https://www.metrocareservices.org/>
2. The following are provided through General Revenue Services through Metrocare:
 - a. Service Coordination
 - b. Community Support
 - c. Out-of-Home Respite
 - d. In-Home Respite
 - e. Employment Assistance
 - f. Supported Employment
 - g. Vocational Training
 - h. Day Habilitation
 - i. Behavioral Support
 - j. Nursing
 - k. Specialized Therapies
 - l. Speech/language Therapy
 - m. Physical Therapy
 - n. Occupational Therapy
 - o. Physician Services

Metrocare Locations: <https://www.metrocareservices.org/locations/>

Administrative Offices
1345 River Bend Drive
Suite 200
Dallas, Texas 75247

Metrocare Lancaster-Kiest Adult Mental Health Clinic & Primary Care
3330 S Lancaster Rd, Dallas, Texas 75216
Phone: 214-371-6639

Early Childhood Intervention Services - DeSoto
Metrocare - Center for Children with Autism - DeSoto
1619 N Hampton Rd, DeSoto, Texas 75115
Phone: 972-331-6335

Is your child on the waiting list for the Medicaid Waiver Program yet? Why wait, do it now!

These programs help pay and support for services, such as respite, housing, therapies, day habilitation, summer programs, etc. The earlier your child is on the list, the sooner they will be able to receive supports and services. It is a 10-12 year waiting list. Call now!
Call Metrocare at 214-371-6639

Local & National Agency Contacts:

Lakes Regional (MHMR) - Community supports; psychiatric, diagnostic, residential services; vocational training; respite services; day habilitation; supported living.

<https://www.lakesregional.org/>

500 N. Main, Suite N

Corsicana, TX 75110

903-872-2491

Lakes Regional Community Center - Waxahachie Service Coordination

<https://www.lakesregional.org/location/waxahachie-service-coordination/>

101 Executive Ct., Suite 200 & 300

Waxahachie, TX 75165

903-872-2491 Ext. 1816

Contact: Patty VanHecker

pattyf@lakesregional.org

United Way of West Ellis County

<https://www.uwwec.org/>

717 W. Main St.

Midlothian, TX 75065

972-723-9280

ARC-US - Promoting and protecting the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

<https://thearc.org/>

Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States

2000 Pennsylvania Avenue

NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

202-534-3700

1-800-433-5255

ARC of Texas

<http://www.thearcoftexas.org>

8001 Centre Park Drive, STE 100

Austin, TX 78754

512-454-6694

Disability Rights Texas (formerly Advocacy, Inc.)

<http://www.disabilityrightstx.org/contact/>

7800 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 171-E

Austin, Texas 78757-1024

Headquarters/Central Texas: (512) 454-4816

North Texas: (214) 630-0916

Social Security Office

<https://www.ssa.gov/>

100 Dean Box Drive

Waxahachie, TX 75165
1-866-563-1912

Guardianship

If you are looking to seek guardianship of your child, you will need to complete the process 6 months to 1 year before your child's 18th birthday. Guardianship is important if you believe that you will need to assist your child in making life choices after the age of 18

Here is a link to a brochure from the Texas Health and Human Services about guardianship:

<https://hhs.texas.gov/laws-regulations/legal-information/guardianship>

Understanding the Law

- [A Texas Guide to Adult Guardianship](#)
This guide from the Texas Health and Human Services Commission explains guardianships, the responsibilities and limitations of guardianships, and offers alternatives to guardianships in easy-to-understand language.
- [What is Guardianship?](#)
Texas Health and Human Services provides a basic explanation of what a guardianship does and how its agency may get involved.
- [Guardianship Overview](#)
This overview from the Governor's Office provides a list of the many things that a guardianship can do. It also contains a list of key Texas laws and notable resources.

College Information

For college information, contact the counselors at FHS. You will need to start early to look into the different options and requirements for post-secondary education.

2 year State Community/Junior College

1. No entry exam, but will be suggested to take a placement exam such as the TSI
2. Associate Degree
 - a. You can use the credits to transfer to a 4 year college
 - b. Foundations Graduation Diploma will qualify you for a 2 year college
3. Disability Office available

4 year college (state, private)

1. SAT/ACT score required depending on the college
2. www.applytexas.org - application for Texas colleges and universities
 - a. Requires essay, letter of recommendation, and specific academic courses.
3. Disability Office available

College Application

1. Go to your selected college website. Find the application in the prospective students page.
 - a. Check academic requirements and on campus living requirements.
2. Send High School Transcript- contact your counselor
3. Entry Exam - Check with college for appropriate testing
 - a. 4 year - ACT or SAT
 - b. 2 year - TSI or another placement exam

Financial Aid and Scholarships

1. Fill out financial aid (FAFSA) your senior year.
2. Applications for scholarships are available on the counseling's website

Disability Service Office

1. When you make a selection or visit the campus that you plan to attend, set up a visit with the disability service office.
2. Students can receive ACCOMMODATIONS but NOT MODIFICATIONS in college.
3. Disability Service Office will need your last IEP and FIE from the high school in order to receive any accommodations while in college. Contact your monitoring teacher for a copy if you don't have one.
4. Know your disability and bring documentation of your disability. Colleges will only listen to YOU, THE STUDENT.

Jennifer Guastella
Macie Faries

Counselor, Ferris High School
Counselor, Ferris High School

jguastella@ferrisd.org
mfaries@ferrisd.org

Emily Washburn
Jennifer Mena
Jennifer Landwehr
Deeann Castillo

Counselor, Ferris High School
Director of Counseling, Ferris ISD
Transition and Employment Designee
Director of Special Populations

ewashburn@ferrisd.org
jmena@ferrisd.org
jlandwehr@ferrisd.org
dcastillo@ferrisd.org

Transition Assessments

Each year, the student should take a transition assessment based on interest, skills, preference, and/or self-advocacy. Please contact your student's case manager or the transition specialist to look into an assessment that is appropriate for your student.

The following lists of online assessments are available for the students to take at home. We ask that you have your child print their results or e-mail his/her results to their monitoring teachers to keep in their transition folder.

Online Transition Assessments

O-Net	www.mynextmove.org
OKCIS	www.okcis.org
My Skills My Future	http://www.myskillsmyfuture.org/
Career One Stop	http://www.careerinfonet.org/skills/default.aspx
The Princeton Review	http://www.princetonreview.com/

18+ Program

The purpose of this program is to prepare students in the 18+ Program to function independently/interdependently in the communities in which they live, work, learn and play. The key to teaching community living & vocational skills to students with developmental disabilities is teaching and learning the skills in real life environments. The students will also work on daily living skills such as cooking, cleaning, dishwashing and laundry. In addition, students must participate in repeated instructional activities in community settings through systematic community based instruction in order to develop and generalize skills.

Community based instruction is instruction in the school and community, which occurs routinely and on a regularly scheduled basis (i.e., daily, weekly..). The instruction in the community (outside of the school) should supplement classroom activities that are designed around a planned unit of instruction.

In Class Jobs

This instruction takes place within the classroom. The purpose of these work experiences is to develop positive work attitudes and behaviors. Students participate in a variety of work experiences which provide them with the opportunity to develop critical vocational skills. Instruction involves teaching students to initiate assigned jobs, request help if needed, follow directions, work cooperatively with peers, accept criticism and correction, complete assigned responsibilities/tasks and take pride in their own work.

Area Businesses

This instruction takes place at selected area businesses that have agreed to work in partnership with the Ferris ISD Transition Program to provide students with vocational experiences. In addition to the critical vocational skills mentioned above, the instructional focus is also on developing and accessing student specific vocational skills. Students participate in job procurement, job exploration/shadowing and individually selected work experiences.

What Can We Do as a Family to Support Our Child as He/She Transitions?

Before the IEP meeting:

- Work with educators to set meeting dates at a mutually convenient time.
- Help develop the agenda.
- Invite members of your family or community for additional support of input in transition options.
- Write out a vision statement for your son or daughter.
- Be prepared to talk about your child's strengths and needs.
- Actively participate in the IEP meeting.
- Praise and encourage your child's ability to express opinions, goals, and needs.
- Take time to evaluate provided services and home expectations.

During the IEP meeting:

- Make sure that the ARD decision committee and transition team members talk directly to your son or daughter, not about him or her.
- Keep the meeting focused on your son's or daughter's future goals.
- Model for your son or daughter effective communication, courtesy, and cooperation.
- Make sure you identify the following:
 - Your son/daughter's goals
 - His/her present level of academic achievement and functional performance.
 - Measurable goals, based on age-appropriate assessments in the areas of:
 1. Education
 2. Employment
 3. Independent living (if appropriate)

After the IEP meeting:

- Follow up on the activities, services, and supports that were agreed upon.
- Periodically check with your son or daughter's teacher
- Communicate with school staff regularly.
- Network with other parents to learn about possible additional supports and resources to consider.
- Communicate with potential service providers to establish services when the student leaves school.

Transition Checklist for Parents and Students

Parents can support their son or daughter through the transition activities listed in the checklist below. This list offers a variety of activities for a student to consider when preparing his or her individual transition plan section of the IEP. The student's skills and interests will determine which items on the checklist are relevant.

At diagnosis, age _____

- Learn as much as you can about your child's disability. Learning about and understanding how

- your child's disability impacts learning can help you develop strategies to help.
- Find out about your child's and your rights.
- Create a line of communication between you and your child's teacher. It is important for you to keep up with your child's progress and be able to intervene and find solutions as soon as you see your child struggling. This is much easier when there is an established communication schedule between you and your child's teacher.

Find out how you can best help your child at home.

- Accentuate your child's strengths. During the first few months after learning your child has a disability, you might focus on the problem areas. Don't forget to remind your child what he or she does well. All children have strengths and your child is no exception.
- Find ways to help develop those strengths. Find outside activities your child might be interested in. It can be clubs, classes, sports or group activities. These types of activities can help increase your child's self-esteem.

At the elementary age levels

- Create daily routines. Structure is important for all children and helps them know what to expect and what is expected of them. Providing a daily routine, such as a time for homework, a time to watch television, a time to play video games can help them stay focused.
- Reach out to other parents. Talk to your child's school to find out if there are any support groups for parents of children with disabilities in your area.
- Encourage independence in your child. For example, help your child learn daily care skills, such as dressing, feeding him or herself, using the bathroom, and grooming.
- Give your child chores. Keep their age, attention span, and abilities in mind. Break down jobs into smaller steps. For example, if your child's job is to set the table, first ask them to get the right number of napkins. Then have him/her put one at each family member's place at the table. Do the same with the utensils, going one at a time. Tell him/her what to do, step by step, until the job is done. Demonstrate how to do the job. Help him/her when they need assistance. Give your child frequent feedback. Praise your child when he or she does well. Build your child's abilities.
- Find out what skills your child is learning at school. Find ways for your child to apply those skills at home. For example, if the teacher is going over a lesson about money, take your child to the supermarket with you. Help him/her count out the money to pay for your groceries. Help him/her count the change.
- Find opportunities in your community for social activities, such as scouts, recreation center activities, sports, and so on. These will help your child build social skills as well as to have fun.
- Meet with the school and develop an educational plan to address your child's needs.
- Keep in touch with your child's teachers. Offer support. Find out how you can support your child's school learning at home.

Four to five years before leaving the school district

- Identify personal learning styles and the accommodations necessary to becoming a successful learner and worker.
- Identify career interests and skills, complete interest and career inventories, and identify additional education or training requirements.
- Explore options for post-secondary education and admission criteria.
- Identify interests and options for future living arrangements, including supports.
- Learn to communicate your interests, preferences, and needs effectively.
- Be able to explain your disability and the accommodations you need.
- Learn and practice informed decision-making skills.
- Investigate assistive technology tools that can increase your community involvement and employment opportunities.
- Broaden your experiences with community activities and expand your friendships.

- Pursue and use local transportation options outside of the family.
- Investigate money management and identify necessary skills.
- Acquire an identification card and practice your skills in communicating personal information.
- Identify and begin learning skills necessary for independent living.
- Learn and practice personal health care.

Two to three years before leaving the school district:

- Identify community support services and programs (vocational rehabilitation, county services, centers for independent living, etc.)
- Invite adult service providers, peers, and others to IEP meetings.
- Match career interests and skills with vocational course work and community work experiences.
- Gather more information on post-secondary programs and the support services offered.
- Make arrangements for accommodations to take college entrance exams, if appropriate.
- Identify health care providers and become informed about sexuality and family planning issues.
- Determine the need for financial support (Supplemental Security Income, state financial supplemental programs, Medicare, etc.).
- Learn and practice appropriate interpersonal communication and social skills for different settings (employment, school, recreation, etc.).
- Explore legal status with regard to decision making prior to age of majority.
- Begin a resume and update it as needed.
- Practice independent living skills (budgeting, shopping, cooking, housekeeping)
- Pursue and use local transportation options outside of the family.
- Learn about money management and identify necessary skills.
- Identify needed personal assistant services; and, if appropriate, learn to direct and manage these services.
- Learn and understand the laws that impact post-secondary opportunities, and develop and practice self-advocacy skills.
- Participate in work experience.
- One year before leaving the school district:
- Apply for financial support programs (Supplemental Security Income, independent living services, vocational rehabilitation, and personal assistance services).
- Identify the post-secondary school you plan to attend and arrange for accommodations.
- Practice effective communication by developing interview skills, asking for help, and identifying necessary accommodations at postsecondary educational and work environments.
- Specify desired jobs and obtain paid employment with supports, as needed.
- Take responsibility for arriving at work, appointments, and social activities.
- Parents and teachers: Inform students of their rights one year before they reach the age of majority (18).
- Connecting with agencies

The transition of students with disabilities from school to adult life is a complex process involving multiple personnel, agencies, programs, and services. The IDEA strongly encourages inter-agency and interdisciplinary collaboration between schools, community transition service agencies, and adult service agencies in the design and delivery of transition services to students. The very definition of transition in the IDEA is a coordinated set of activities, which necessitates collaboration and coordination between the student and family,

the school and district, community-based organizations and services, and county and state agencies.

Decisions must be made concerning:

- Who will provide what?
- When will it be provided?
- How will it be provided?
- Who will pay for the service?

Adult service agencies are not mandated to provide services while students are still in school; so planning and coordination between agencies must start early. Collaboration can reduce duplication of procedures and services and thus ensure one comprehensive plan for the student's future. Effective inter-agency collaboration can also ensure that the most appropriate services are identified and accessed. Finally, and most importantly, inter-agency collaboration can increase a student's ability to achieve post- school success.

Resources

Texas Transition and Employment Guide

<https://spedsupport.tea.texas.gov/resource-library/texas-transition-and-employment-guide>

Region 10 Interagency Supports Resources - all local agencies in the Region 10 area.

<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?present=true&id=1345192>

Texas Parent2Parent- parent organization that helps parents with anything related to special programs from agencies to steps to take in transition.

<http://www.txp2p.org>

Texas Driving with Disability

<https://gov.texas.gov/organization/disabilities/texas-driving-with-disability>

Pacer Center – helps families with disabilities find services and resources

<http://www.pacer.org>

Navigate Life Texas - parent information resource

<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en>

Transition in Texas - Texas Education Agency website for transition

www.transitionintexas.org

Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD)

<http://www.ahead.org>

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us>

Ferris High School

<https://fhs.ferrisisd.org/>