

DESOTO COUNTY SCHOOLS TRANSITION INFORMATION AND RESOURCES GUIDE FOR AGES 12 – 22

Secondary Transition for students with disabilities, transition is the process of getting ready to move from school to adult life. The process occurs over a period of several years and involves planning, goal setting, instruction, services and activities designed to make that move successful. In the State of Florida, the year the student turns 12 or the student's first day of the 7th grade, or whichever comes first, schools begin the process of identifying student needs for transition services. A full transition individual education plan must be in place when the student turns 14 or the student's first day of high school.

Deferral of Graduation

If all requirements are met at the time of graduation, a student with a disability may defer the receipt of a standard high school diploma and continue to receive services if the IEP includes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through age 21. The student must be enrolled in one of the following:

- accelerated college credit instruction pursuant to 1007.27, F.S.,
- industry certification courses that lead to college credit,
- a collegiate high school program,
- courses necessary to satisfy the Scholar designation requirements, or
- a structured work-study, internship, or pre-apprenticeship program.

High-School Level Transition Services and Programs

The continuum of services, depending on student need, offered at Desoto High School for students with disabilities consist of Learning Strategies, Career Preparation, Career Experience, and an opportunity to participate in the High School High Tech. Beginning when the student turns 14, or the student's first day of high school, student and families receive an explanation regarding the Pre-Employment Transition Services and traditional services offered by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Desoto Transition Academy is an 18-22-year old program for students who meet eligibility requirements for deferral and participation in the program. Typical instructional activities may consist of practical applications of various life skills and independent living skills training in the following areas: Adult Living Arrangements, Financial Management, Citizenship and Community Involvement, Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy, Personal and Social Competencies, Personal Health and Safety, Personal and Career Planning.

High School Career Technical Programs


What is Career and Technical Education? It is a specific track or academy that allows a student to receive certification in order to prepare them for a career and/or continued education in that particular field or area. Eligibility requirements may vary depending on the program. DeSoto High School currently offers CTE courses resulting a certification in the following areas:

- Agriculture: Agri Technology; Animal Sciences; Horticulture Science and Services
- Building Construction Technology
- Microsoft Office Specialist
- Health Science Academy: Nursing Assistant, Home Health Aide; Electrocardiograph Tech
- Culinary Arts
- Automotive Service Technology: offered at South Florida State College through dual enrollment

Collegiate Programs available to students with disabilities

DUAL ENROLLMENT The dual enrollment program is designed to expand the learning opportunities for qualified students. Qualified students who wish to enroll in college level courses and who need the credits to meet high school graduation requirements may enroll in approved postsecondary courses. These courses are taught as part of the high school curriculum and follow the curricular guidelines established by the high school and South Florida State College. The number of credits a student may earn is determined by the college. Students must meet enrollment criteria specific to each dual enrollment course, and upon successful completion of each course will receive both high school and post-secondary credit through South Florida State College. Students dually enrolled in the regular school year are exempt from tuition, fees, and textbook costs.



Agency for Persons with Disabilities
 "Supports persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in all aspects of community life."

 1313 North Tampa Street Suite 515, Tampa, FL 33602
 1-800-615-8720
<http://apd.myflorida.com>

Florida Center for Students with UNIQUE ABILITIES









"To increase independent living, inclusive and experiential postsecondary education, and employment opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities through degree, certificate, or nondegree programs and to establish statewide coordination of the dissemination of information regarding programs and services for students with disabilities."
 4000 Central Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 161250 Orlando, FL 32816-1250 (407)823-5225




USF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
 "To provide support and assistance with the goal of optimizing the potential of people with autism, dual sensory impairment, and related disabilities."

 (813) 974-2532 Fax: (813) 905-9812
 Toll-Free Florida Only: 1-800-333-4530
 Email: card-usf@usf.edu | <http://card-usf.fmhi.usf.edu/index.html>


COMMUNITY RESOURCES for individuals with:

-  **Learning Disabilities**
Difficulties in math, reading, and/or written language due to processing disorders
-  **Intellectual and Developmental Disability**
Cognitive and developmental delay
-  **Emotional/Behavioral Disorders**
Behavioral issues including mental illness
-  **Physical Impairments**
Including Other Health Impaired and Orthopedically Impaired
-  **Speech and/or Language Impairment**
Difficulty with articulation or receptive/expressive language
-  **Deaf/Hard of Hearing**
Difficulty with hearing
-  **Visual impairment**
Difficulty with vision
-  **Autism Spectrum Disorder**
Identified eligible for services on the Autism Spectrum




Florida School for the Deaf and Blind
 "To provide information, referrals, support, trainings, and assessments for the benefit of children and youth who are deaf/hard of hearing and/or blind/visually impaired."

 207 N. San Marco Avenue Saint Augustine, FL 32084
 Phone: (904)827-2731
<http://www.fsdbsk12.org>




Project 10
 "Project 10: Transition Education Network is Florida's statewide project supporting the secondary transition of youth with disabilities."

 140 7th Avenue South SVB 108, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
 Phone: (727) 873-4661 | Fax: (727) 873-4660
www.project10.info




Florida Centers for Independent Living (CIL)
 "CILs are consumer-driven, non-profit organizations whose mission is to support community living and independence for people with disabilities based on the belief that all people can live with dignity, make their own choices and participate fully in society."

 500 S. Florida Ave., Suite 330, Lakeland Florida 33801
 (863) 413-2722




DeSoto County Schools
 "The mission of the School District of DeSoto is to prepare all students to be successful citizens and productive workers."

 530 LaSalona Avenue Arcadia, FL 34266
 Phone: (863) 494-4222 | Fax: (866) 889-1073
www.desotoschools.com



Severely/Emotionally Disturbed Network
 "Facilitates a network of key stakeholders committed to assisting in the provision of a quality system of care for students with or at-risk of emotional and/or behavioral challenges."

 2501 63rd Avenue E., Bradenton, FL 34203
 Phone: (941) 751-6550
<https://sednetfl.info/>




South Florida State College
 "We believe in the worth of each of our students and, through all of our educational programs and services, we seek to develop human potential and to create brighter futures."

 600 West College Drive Avon Park, FL 33825 (863) 453-6661
<http://www.southflorida.edu/>




Charlotte Behavioral Health Care
 "Partnering to instill hope, inspire growth, and embrace life."

 The Selby House
 513 E. Hickory Street, Arcadia, FL 34266
 Website: www.desotopsychiatric.com
 Phone: (941) 639-8300




Division of Blind Services
 "To ensure blind and visually impaired persons living in Florida have the tools, support, and opportunity to achieve success."

 325 West Gaines Street Turlington Building, Suite 1114, Tallahassee, FL 32399
 (850) 245-0300
<http://www.dbs.flode.org>



Manatee Technical College
 "MTC is a post-secondary adult, career and technical education center."

 6305 SR 70 E Bradenton, FL 34203
 (941) 751-7900
<http://manateetech.edu/>




Florida Department of Education Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
 "Providing employment opportunities to people of working age with disability that affect their ability to work."

 Phone: (863) 381-6077
 Fax: (863) 386-6079




Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System (FDLRS/Heartland)
 "Provides diagnostic and instructional support services to district exceptional student education programs and families of students with exceptionalities across Desoto, Glades, Hendry, and Highlands Counties."

 1076 US HWY 27 Lake Placid, FL 33852
 (863) 531-0444 ext 234 Fax: (863) 531-0425
<http://www.fdlrsheartland.org>



Charlotte Technical College
 "We strive to educate students and to assist them in realizing their full potential."

 Port Charlotte, FL 3394
 Phone: (941) 255-7500
<http://www.yourcharlotteteschools.net/CTC>



Arc DeSoto
 "The Arc DeSoto Training Center has many programs to offer adults with developmental disabilities in the DeSoto County area."

 4173 NE Hwy 17 Arcadia, FL 34266
 (863) 494-2328



Goodwill Industries - Manasota
 "At Goodwill Manasota we strive to enhance the dignity and quality of life of individuals and families by helping people reach their full potential through education, skills training and the power of work."

 1701 E Oak St #B, Arcadia, FL 34266
 (863) 491-1445