

Secondary transition involves equipping students for their lives beyond high school, which may include engaging in post-secondary education or training, entering the workforce, and/or achieving independent living. These three aspects are commonly known as "post-school outcomes" and serve as the primary focus for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) developed for high school students. Transition planning typically starts at age 14, during middle school or the early years of high school, where students begin to identify their desired post-school outcomes through various career awareness and exploration activities.

The planning process continues throughout high school, integrating instruction and community experiences that align with these outcomes. By initiating and maintaining discussions about transition both before and during high school, the IEP team can collaborate with each student and their family to choose academic paths that hold significance for the student's future, while also encouraging the student to successfully complete their education.

### **Parent Involvement**

Parental involvement is crucial in the transition planning process for high school students with disabilities. Parents play an active role in several key areas that contribute to their child's successful transition to adulthood.

### **Advocacy and Support**

Parents serve as advocates for their children, ensuring that their individual needs and preferences are recognized throughout the transition planning process. By actively participating in meetings and discussions, parents can share valuable insights about their child's strengths, interests, and areas of need. Their involvement not only helps tailor the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to better suit their child but also fosters a supportive environment that emphasizes the student's potential.

### **Collaboration with the IEP Team**

Parents are essential members of the IEP team, working collaboratively with educators and service providers. They are involved in identifying appropriate educational goals, transition assessments, and necessary services that will prepare their child for post-school outcomes. By being present at IEP meetings and actively contributing to discussions, parents help to ensure that the transition plan is comprehensive and considers all aspects of their child's future.

### **Preparing for Post-School Outcomes**

To effectively prepare for their child's future, parents should begin discussions about post-school outcomes early in the transition planning process. This includes exploring options for post-secondary education, vocational training, and independent living opportunities. Parents can facilitate this exploration by engaging their child in career awareness activities, which can inform the IEP team about their child's aspirations and interests.

### **Monitoring Progress and Needs**

Throughout the transition process, parents play a role in monitoring their child's progress toward identified goals. They should maintain communication with school personnel about any changes in their child's needs or aspirations as they approach graduation. By staying informed and involved, parents can help adjust the transition plan as necessary to better support their child's evolving goals and needs.

### **Encouraging Independence and Self-Advocacy**

Parents can help cultivate independence and self-advocacy skills in their child, which are essential for successful adult living. Encouraging their child to take part in decision-making processes related to their education and future goals empowers students to express their needs and preferences, ensuring they are better prepared for life after high school. Additionally, parents can promote participation in community resources and support services that assist with post-secondary planning.

By actively engaging in these areas, parents significantly contribute to the successful transition of their high school students with disabilities, ensuring that they are prepared for the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

## **Financial Support**

- **Social Security Administration** – designed to help individuals who are aged, blind and/or disabled, who have little or no income; and provides case to meet basic needs for food, clothing and shelter

[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)

(866) 964-5056

- **Goodwill** – assistance with benefits planning and coordination of paid employment and SSI/SSDI benefits

Contact: Jen Kistler

Email: [jkistler@yourgoodwill.org](mailto:jkistler@yourgoodwill.org)

Toll Free: 1-888-960-WORK

Website: [icanworknow.org](http://icanworknow.org)

General benefits questions: 1-866-968-7842

## **Employment and Work Agencies**

- **PA Career Link** – assistance with job training and placement

[www.cwds.pa.gov](http://www.cwds.pa.gov)

- **AHEDD** – employment and training services for persons with disabilities

[www.AHEDD.org](http://www.AHEDD.org)

(717) 763-0968

- **Goodwill Employment Services** – employment and training services for persons with disabilities

[www.yourgoodwill.org](http://www.yourgoodwill.org)

(717) 232-1831

- **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation** – serves people with disabilities who are seeing jobs with job placement

<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/ovr/Pages/default.aspx>

555 Walnut Street, 8th Floor

Harrisburg PA 17101

(717) 787-7834 Voice

(800) 442-6352\* Voice

(717) 255-0856 Video phone

- **ResCare** – offers residential and support services, education, vocational training and job placement for people with disabilities

[www.rescare.com](http://www.rescare.com)

(717) 243-4431

- **S. Wilson Pollock Center for Industrial Training (CIT)** – provides training and employment opportunities to individuals with disabilities and other vocational challenges

<https://cparc.org/programs/s-wilson-pollock-center-for-industrial-training/>

(717) 766-8512

- **Shadowfax** – supports individuals with disabilities with supported employment, job placement, vocational training, in home supports, community-based programming, and life skills training

[www.shadowfax.org](http://www.shadowfax.org)

(717) 848-1807

- **Askjan.org** – The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) – the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. Working toward practical solutions that benefit both employer and employee, JAN helps people with disabilities enhance their employability, and shows employers how to capitalize on the value and talent that people with disabilities add to the workplace.

#### **County Agencies**

- **MH/IDD** – serves individuals in the community with mental illness, intellectual disabilities and developmental delays to enhance their quality of life and provide an opportunity to reach their fullest potential

Mental Health/Autism/Developmental Programs

**Andrea Kepler, Administrator**

100 Chestnut Street, 1st Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101

**Phone:** (717) 780-7050

**Fax:** (717) 780-7061

- **UCP** – provides both community and center-based programs and services to individuals with disabilities

<http://www.ucpcentralpa.org>

(717) 737-3477

- **The ARC** – provides support, training, and opportunities to people with intellectual disabilities and their families

Dauphin County

3544 North Progress Avenue Suite 205 Harrisburg, PA 17110

(717) 920-2727

#### **Transportation Services**

- **Capital Area Transit** – information on local public transportation <http://www.cattransit.com>

(717) 238-8304

- **Rabbit Transit** – information on local public transportation

<http://www.rabbittransit.org>

(717) 846-7433

### Autism Services

- **ASERT**- supports individuals with autism and their families throughout Pennsylvania  
<http://www.paautism.org>  
(877) 231-4244
- **Keystone Autism Services** - works to support individuals with disabilities to become valued, fully participating and contributing members of their community  
<http://www.keystonehumanservices.org>  
(717) 232-7509
- **Bureau of Autism** - develop and manage services and support to enhance the quality of life of Pennsylvanians living with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and to support their families and caregivers  
[www.dhs.state.pa.us](http://www.dhs.state.pa.us)  
(866) 539-7689

### Autism Employment Guide- (also good information for individuals with other disabilities)

- **An Employer's Guide to Hiring and Retaining Employees with Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
[https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/employer\\_guide\\_to\\_hiring\\_and\\_retaining.pdf](https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/docs/employer_guide_to_hiring_and_retaining.pdf)

### Disability Services

- **BBVS** - Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services  
<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/bbvs/Pages/default.aspx>  
(717) 787-7500
- **ODHH** - Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing  
<https://www.dli.pa.gov/Individuals/Disability-Services/odhh/Pages/default.aspx>  
(717) 783-4912

### Education Services

- **Capital Area Intermediate Unit #15**  
<http://caiu.org/>  
(717) 732-8400

### General Support

- **New Hope Ministries** – assistance with budgeting skills, employment skills, etc.  
<http://nhm-pa.org/>  
(717) 766-7333
- **Variety the Children's Charity** - Variety enables children with disabilities to live life to the fullest and to have opportunities to discover the possibilities for their own lives

<http://www.varietypittsburgh.org>

(717) 933-0460

- **Voter's Registration Website** - <https://www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/VoterRegistrationApplication.aspx>
- **PA Driver's License/Permit** - <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/driver-services/driver-licensing/pages/get-driver-license.aspx>
- **PA Real ID** - <https://www.dmv.pa.gov/realid/pages/default.aspx>

### **Post Secondary Options**

#### **East Stroudsburg University, Career Independent Living and Learning Studies**

Career, Independent Living & Learning Studies (CILLS) is a program sponsored by East Stroudsburg University that is designed to provide individuals with intellectual disabilities with a learning experience in a campus environment where life and work skills are accelerated by daily encouragement in the life of a university. The program includes living off campus and acquiring proficiency to function among others without disabilities on campus. In addition, the program provides personal development activities combined with classes designed to develop essential skills for independent living and future employment.

[website](#)

#### **Millersville University, Integrated Studies Program**

Millersville University supports students with an intellectual disability enrolled in Career & Life Studies, a four-semester post-secondary initiative for young adults with an intellectual disability who are interested in participating in an academic, vocational and social university experience.

[website](#)

#### **D.R.E.A.M Partnership**

The Mission of the D.R.E.A.M. Partnership is to develop a selection of post-secondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities in Pennsylvania that includes independent and supported dormitory options.

[website](#)

#### **Penn State Harrisburg, Inclusive Post-Secondary Program**

The Inclusive Post-Secondary program in customer relations provides the opportunity for students with intellectual disabilities to complete customer relations coursework, participate in campus activities, and explore career opportunities in the workplace. Completion of the program leads to a Customer Relations Certificate.

[website](#)

#### **Web Resource**

[www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)

### **Community Supports**

#### **Red Tomato Farm and Inn – Newville, PA**

A dedicated Adult Training Facility designed for individuals with intellectual disabilities. Operated by Hempfield Behavioral Health, the goal is to provide adults with intellectual disabilities meaningful work rooted in farm tasks that create opportunities to interact with the community.

<http://www.hempfieldpa.com/red-tomato-farm---inn.html>

(717) 221-8004

**Able Services, a division of Leg Up Farms - York, PA**

Able-Printers provides a team of talented adults with special needs the opportunity to work in a business setting.

Able-Growers is an on-site commercial greenhouse program that develops the skills for growing and managing plants to be incorporated into all elements of training and activities. Participants explore skill areas such as pre-vocational training, activities of daily living, social skills, communication, leisure/fitness/recreation, nutrition and health, community participation, and self-advocacy.

3100 North George Street, York, PA

(717) 384-6130 x3100

<http://www.able-services.org>

**Hope Springs Farm – Hershey, PA**

Provides adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities or autism a day program to maximize their abilities.

Participants are tasked with farm chores from feeding the animals to weeding the gardens. They learn a variety of skills such as cooking, baking, cleaning, and shopping. Participants also participate in educational, civic and leisure activities, such as visiting the library, swimming, taking field trips, and volunteering in the community.

201 Trail Road, Hershey, PA 17033

(717) 298-1845

<http://www.hopespringsfarm.org/>

**PATHWAYS Program - United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)**

A post-secondary 2-year program, Pathways is designed to help students with job exploration and obtaining employment in the second year of the program. Individuals are assessed via a 20-day initial assessment to determine the appropriateness of the program for them. Participants will need to apply through their county (CP MH/IDD) for admission.

**Stepping Stones Program - Harrisburg location, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)**

Stepping Stones is geared to prepare individuals for the Pathways Program. It is designed for individuals who may need more support in preparing for customized or competitive employment. Everyone participates in a curriculum portion of the day that focuses on skill development and increasing independent living skills. Individuals also participate in the community for a portion of the day. Participants will need to apply through their county (CP MH/IDD) for admission and must work with them for transportation needs, if they need that service.

<http://www.ucpcentralpa.org/>

**Websites** (The District is not responsible for the content of sites linked below.)**PA Department of Special Education**

[www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Special Education](http://www.education.pa.gov/K-12/Special%20Education)

**Secondary Transition Guide**

[www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org)

**Transition Checklist**

<https://www.pattan.net/Graduation-Post-Secondary-Outcomes/Educational-Initiatives/What-is-Secondary-Transition/Planning-for-the-Future-Checklist>

**Department of Labor and Industry**

[www.dli.pa.gov](http://www.dli.pa.gov)

**PA Department of Labor and Industry Career Guide**

<https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Documents/Career%20Guides/CareerGuide.pdf>

**PaTTAN**

[www.pattan.k12.pa.us](http://www.pattan.k12.pa.us)

**Transition Assessments and Activities**

<http://sped.sbcsc.k12.in.us/ppm/transitionplanning/transitionassessments.html>

**Council for Exceptional Children**

[www.cec.sped.org](http://www.cec.sped.org)

**Center for Independent Living of Central Pennsylvania**

[www.cilcp.org](http://www.cilcp.org)

**Keystone Human Services**

<http://www.keystonehumanservices.org/>

**Living Unlimited**

<http://www.living-unlimitedinc.com/>

**ASERT-PA** (autism resource)

<http://www.paautism.org/>

**My Next Move-O\*Net**

<http://www.mynextmove.org/>

**Job Gateway**

[www.jobgateway.pa.gov](http://www.jobgateway.pa.gov)

**PA Career Zone**

[www.pacareerzone.org](http://www.pacareerzone.org)

**United Cerebral Palsy of Central PA**

<http://www.ucpcentralpa.org/>

**The ARC of Pennsylvania**

<http://www.thearcpa.org/>

**Works For Me**

<http://worksforme-pa.org/>

**Pennsylvania Jobs.com**

<http://www.pennsylvaniajobs.com/>

**Shared Work**

[www.sharedwork.org](http://www.sharedwork.org)

**The Lead Center**

<http://www.leadcenter.org>

**Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network**

[www.Pyln.org](http://www.Pyln.org)

**Pacer's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment**

[www.pacer.org/tatra](http://www.pacer.org/tatra)

**Area M Special Olympics**

[www.sopam.org](http://www.sopam.org)

**State of PA Health and Human Services Portal**

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

**The Peal Center (Special Needs Health Care Assistance)**

<http://www.pealcenter.org/>

**SSI and SSDI**

[www.socialsecurity.gov/work/WIPA.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/WIPA.html)

[www.yourtickettowork.com](http://www.yourtickettowork.com)

[www.cwds.state.pa.us](http://www.cwds.state.pa.us)

**Benefits and Financial Planning**

<http://www.specialneedsalliance.org/>

**I'm A Leader**

<http://www.imaleaderpa.org/>

**Determined**

<http://www.imdetermined.org/>

**Employment Resources**

[www.chooseworkttw.net/findhelp/](http://www.chooseworkttw.net/findhelp/)

[www.dli.pa.gov](http://www.dli.pa.gov)