

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



MISSISSINEWA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A GUIDE TO TRANSITION

PLANNING

TRANSITION PREPARING TODAY FOR YOUR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

What is transition planning?

Transition planning is determining the path you choose from high school to adult life. Determining a life style for yourself requires you to make many decisions about:

- The things you want to do when you complete high school.
- The steps you need to take to make a successful move from high school to adult life.

Ask yourself these questions:

The future is up to YOU!

You will need to gather information and make some very important choices.....

- Where would I like to work?
- Will I need to get more education?
- Where will I live?
- What will I do for fun?
- How will I get where I want to go?
- Who can help me with work...school...housing...transportation?

Beginning at age 14, or during 8th grade, you will help develop your Individual Transition Plan (ITP) at your Annual Case Review (ACR). Your ITP is a plan that maps out the way you can reach your goals for life after high school. It will help you determine what supports or training you will need to live, work, and have fun. **YOU** are the most valuable person on the "team" that develops your ITP. Other members of the team can be:

- Your family and friends
- Your teachers
- Your school counselor
- Representatives from community agencies

Medicare is another government health insurance program for people with disabilities who receive social security benefits. It does not cover all medical bills and you will have a small monthly payment.

**Grant County Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
1-800-403-0864**

What about selective service registration?

Federal law requires all males, regardless of disability, to sign up with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. You can sign up at any post office. If you do not declare yourself as a “conscientious objector” or do not sign up with the Selective Service, you may be arrested and lose your disability benefits.

How can I get an ID card?

If you do not have a driver’s license, you can get a photo identification card at your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch (BMV). **Contact: 1-888-692-6841**

Do I need a guardian?

Before you are 18 years old, your parents are your legal guardians. A guardian is someone who makes important decisions for you. These are decisions about such things as your money, your health, or where you live. When you turn 18, the state of Indiana says you are your own guardian. This means you have reached the “age of majority”; you are an adult.

- Do you feel you are able to be your own guardian?
- Do you need someone else to help you or to make decisions for you?

If you feel you are not able to be your own guardian, you or a family member can ask a judge to appoint someone to be your guardian. The guardian may be your parents, a relative or someone else approved by the court. In most cases you will need an attorney to help you do this.

If you don’t want a guardian to manage all of your business, it is possible to have a limited guardianship. This will allow you to have the freedom of decision-making

Are you thinking about college?

If you are thinking about college, you should discuss your plans with your school counselor and Teacher of Record. You may need to take certain classes in high school to help you get into the college of your choice. You will also need to take the SAT and/or ACT exams. Students usually register for these college entrance examinations during their junior and senior years of high school. Many colleges and universities will require you to submit results from one of these tests along with your application. Make plans to attend college fairs to collect information about colleges and universities. College visits are an extremely important part of the selection process. ***Timing is everything! Be aware of timelines and meet all deadlines for college and financial aid applications.***

Are you interested in other educational options after high school?

There are many opportunities for continued training and education after you complete high school. Check with your school counselor for information about trade schools, technical programs, apprenticeship programs and other options. A visit to Ivy Tech could be a good place to start your search for the right educational facility.

Do I need health insurance?

YES YOU DO!!! As you get older you may no longer be covered by your family's health insurance. Health insurance helps pay for your medical services, both routine and emergency. Medical services are very expensive! You need health insurance to help you pay for any health services you require.

Whether you are looking for work or planning to further your education beyond high school, you must be sure that you have health insurance. If you cannot get health insurance at work, at school, or on your own, you may wish to check with the Grant County Division of Family Resources about Medicaid or Medicare.

Medicaid is a government health insurance program for people who qualify due to their low income level. If you are a person with a permanent disability, you may qualify.

BE A VOLUNTEER!

There are many organizations who would love to have you work with them a few hours each week. You can find out about the types of volunteer opportunities that match your interests by:

- Visiting the website: **Servegrantcounty.org**
- Contacting a local church
- Checking the newspaper

How will I get around?

If you have a driver's license and a car, getting around is easy. If you don't, how will you get to work or the other places you need or want to go? Sometimes it is tough to find the right transportation at the time you need it. Your transition plan may include transportation considerations. Will you want to take a driver's education class? Will you need help with learning to ride the Marion city bus?

Marion City

BUS.....765-668-4445
(Cityofmarion.in.gov Living tab-Bus Schedule tab)
Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch (BMV).....1-888-692-6841

What classes should I take in high school?

At the Annual Case Review before you begin high school, you and the conference members will develop your Individual Transition Plan (ITP). You will decide whether working towards earning a diploma or a certificate is best for you.

- If you have an IEP that recommends a certificate of completion, you will be involved in a functional curriculum with community-based programs.
- If you plan to earn a high school diploma, you must take and pass the required state courses and state testing. Credit requirements for your graduating class will be discussed at each ACR. There may be some accommodations written into your IEP for classroom work and testing requirements based upon your individual needs

Medicaid Waivers

There are four Medicaid waivers which make Medicaid funds available for in-home and community services. Each waiver has its own eligibility criteria and application procedures. A Medicaid waiver provides funding to a person (rather than an agency) for the purpose of purchasing services needed for personal support. This funding does not pay for rent, food, utilities...etc. It pays for the support services required by a person. The person can live in their family home or move out of their family home into their own apartment or home. One advantage of this type of waiver is the opportunity for individuals to choose their providers, as long as the provider is approved by the state. You may change providers if you wish. The funding follows you wherever you live within the state of Indiana, as long as it is not in an institution, hospital, or group home. There is no age requirement to apply for services, but there are long waiting lists.

To apply for Medicaid waivers, contact the BDDS office in Muncie at 765-288-6516.

What can I do with my free time?

School activities are great and can take up a lot of your time, but what are you going to do when you aren't in school anymore? What are your interests? What are your talents? How and where can you do the things you like to do?

basketball * fishing * tennis * theater * golfing * bowling * swimming * music *
camping * drama * crafts * painting * biking * exercising * volunteering

Whatever you enjoy doing, you can find opportunities to get involved in recreational interests. Contact some of the places listed below to find out how you can get involved.

Marion Parks and Recreation.....	765-668-4453
YMCA.....	765-664-0544
Marion Public Library.....	765-668-2900



Where am I going to live?

You may dream of living on your own someday, living with a roommate or two, or continuing to live with your family. In any case, you may need some assistance with your personal care or daily living needs. There are several ways to obtain these services, but all of the avenues involve an application process and waiting lists.

It is important to make contacts and submit applications as early as possible. There is no need to wait until the end of high school.

There are two major agencies to contact to obtain information and apply for living services:

The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities: 765-288-6516 or 877-218-3531

LifeStream Services: 765-651-0040

Various plans for community living may be developed to meet your individual needs and desires. Your plan may require more than one funding program. Some options that you might consider are:

Group Homes

Group homes are homes where six to eight people live together and have staff present to help them, often 24 hours a day. Group homes are usually funded by the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid. The funding is provided to the residential service agency that owns or rents the house. If a resident moves out of the house, the funding stays with the agency to provide service for another individual in that house. The waiting lists can be long.

Contact the BDDS office in Muncie at 765-288-6516 for further information.

What opportunities are available in my high school?

Career exploration is an important part of your high school education. Tech-Prep, Vocational Education, or Employment for school credit programs may be good options for you to consider in gaining training and opportunities to explore careers. Naval Jr ROTC is offered to students interested in the military.

Talk to your Teacher of Record or Counselor for more information about these programs.

Social Security Options

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program. Social Security Disability Insurance pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. Supplemental Security Income pays benefits based on financial need.

For information or to apply for either program, contact the local Social Security Branch.

Social Security Administration
844 North Miller Avenue, Marion, Indiana 46952
1-888-397-9795

Who should you contact first?

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) is a federal and state funded agency that helps adults with disabilities receive the services they need to get and keep jobs. A VRS counselor will be invited to attend your ACR during your senior year or will set up a time to meet with you/you and your family outside a conference when the student/parent signs a release of information form from the school. At this time, you and your parent(s) will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you qualify, you will be assigned a VRS counselor who will provide you with the services you want and need to support your goals. VRS may be able to help you with educational expenses or other services that you may need to work!

How do I get a job?

There are a few things to keep in mind as you begin to look for a job:

- Obtain the necessary documents. You will need a social security card, birth certificate, and a state identification card or driver's license. A driver's license or photo ID is available from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (license branch)
- Carry basic information in your wallet so it will be available as you complete job applications. Along with your social security card, you will also need the names, addresses and phone numbers of three people who will give you good recommendations. Names and addresses of schools and previous employers may also be needed.
- If you are 14-17 years old, you must have a work permit. Work permits are available in the counselor's office. Once you are hired, you must have your employer complete the Intent to Employ card and then take it to your school's counseling office along with your birth certificate.
- **You can always check for job leads at Workone (765-668-8911) or on the web at Indianacareerconnect.com.**

What can you do?

It is **YOUR** life! You need to take some actions now that will help you reach your goals later. You can have more control if you:

- Attend your Annual Case Review (ACR) and speak up!
- Think about what you want to say at your ACR.
- Share your goals and dreams for the future.
- Consider other viewpoints and make your own decisions.

What can Parents do?

- Attend the case conferences
- Participate in developing the IEP/ITP (Individual Education Program/Indiana Transition Plan)
- Sign the *Transfer of Information Form for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)*, if appropriate, and follow through with the application process for VR.
- Determine whether or not there is a need to retain guardianship and follow through with the necessary legal process for retaining guardianship, if appropriate.
- Contact the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities to gain information about housing options and waiting list, if appropriate.

What are adult services?

Adult services are available through many different agencies in our community. Often people do not pay directly for these services because they are funded by various government programs, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid waivers...etc. Adult service providers can:

- Help you understand what types of services they provide.
- Explain what makes a person eligible for their services and who pays for the services.
- Take your application for services.
- Give you ideas to help you reach your goals.
- Assist you in finding the support you need.
- Help you understand what to expect after high school.

There are eligibility requirements for all adult services and usually long waiting lists for many of these services.

in some areas of your life, while limiting the guardian to those areas where help is required, such as medical and health issues.

If you live in a group home or a supported living situation, the people who support you may assist you in making some decision, but it is still a good idea to carefully consider the guardianship issue for your safety and well-being.

Talk this over with your parent. There are also other alternatives to guardianship that are less expensive and do not involve attorneys. For more information and assistance, contact:

**The ARC of Indiana (<http://arcind.org>)
1-800-382-9100**

How can I help myself?

Advocacy is about helping yourself receive the services that you need. If you feel that you are not being treated fairly or are unsure about how to work through the red tape of the service systems, there are agencies which are prepared to help you. They can:

- Give you the information you need.
- Refer you to people who can help you.
- Possibly accompany you to meetings or otherwise represent you.

For more information and assistance, you may contact:

**The ARC of Indiana.....1-800-382-9100
(<http://arcind.org>)**

**Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services.....1-800-332-4433
4701 N Keystone Ave #222
Indianapolis, IN 46205**

In*Source (family resource center).....1-800-332-4433

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Mississinewa Community Schools
Special Education Services
765-677-4426

Carey Services
2724 South Carey Street
Marion, IN 46953
765-668-8961

Cornerstone
505 North Wabash Avenue
Marion, IN
765-662-3971

Division of Family Resources Offices
830 North Miller Avenue
Marion, IN 46952
1-800-403-0864

Family Service Society, Inc.
101 South Washington Street
Marion, IN 46952
765-662-9971

Indiana Dept. of Mental Health
Developmental Disabilities Services
(Bureau of Developmental Disabilities)
201 E Charles Street #130
Muncie IN 47305
765-288-6516

Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Office
840 North Miller Avenue
Marion, IN 46952
765-662-9961

Lifestream Services Inc.
1923 West 4th Street
Marion, IN 46953
765-651-0040

Social Security Administration
844 North Miller Avenue
Marion, IN 46952
1-888-397-9795

Visit <https://instrc.indiana.edu/> to find the community resources you need – when you need them! The Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center has a new online interactive map filled with information about local and state service providers, advocacy organizations, government offices and more! Check it out!

Thank you for using this resource!

This resource was developed for the students and families of Mississinewa Community Schools in October of 2018. Efforts will be made to update Grant County information as changes in locations, phone numbers and websites are made. If you notice such changes needing to be made, please contact Jolyn at 765-677-4426.