



BUILDING A BRIDGE TO INDEPENDENCE

**Keller ISD Special Education
Transition 101**

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

If we don't plan... someone else will.

Transition = life after high school



WHAT IS TRANSITION?

Preparing for work, education, and independent living

Transition is a plan for life after high school.

It helps your child prepare for work, continued education or training, and living as independently as possible.

Transition happens through the IEP (ARD process).

The school team, along with you and your child, creates goals and a plan that builds the skills needed for adulthood.

The school's responsibility to prepare, not guarantee outcomes.

The school provides instruction, experiences, and support, but students and families will take the lead after graduation.



WHEN DOES IT START?

- Required by the age 14
- Building skills start much earlier
- Planning will start broad and get more specific



WHAT CHANGES AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?

School provides support → Adult world requires self-advocacy

WHAT IS THE GOAL?



Independence

Safety

Communication

Purpose

THE TRANSITION PLAN:

- **Postsecondary goals**
- **Annual goals**
- **Coordinated set of activities**
- **Course of study**
- **Agency Connections**





WHAT ARE THE ROLE OF PARENTS?

- Set high expectations
- Build independence
- Provide collaboration with transition planning
- Ask questions

COMMON BARRIERS:

Problems that can families can run into during transition planning:



- Waiting too long to start planning for your child's future.

- Doing too much for your child, allowing your child to learn through experience

- Focusing only on academics, not on life skills, behavior

AGENCY CONNECTIONS:

- Medicaid Waivers
 - Waitlists are 15 to 20 years long
- MHMR: My Health My Resources
- Texas Workforce Commission



RESOURCES:

Pathways: The Transition and Employment Guide

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

Texas Workforce Commission:

<https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation>

MHMR:

<https://mhmrarrant.org/>



RESOURCES:

Medicaid Waivers:

<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

Next Steps to Independence:

<https://www.navigatelifetexas.org/en/insurance-financial-help/texas-medicaid-waiver-programs-for-children-with-disabilities>

Texas Parent Project First:

<https://texasprojectfirst.org/transition-resources/>



Thank you for coming!

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