FAMILY SUPPORT NEWSLETTER

CCPS Family Support Birth thru age 21

December, January, February

Para traducción al español, por favor contactar a Tammy @ Tammy.Chisholm@carrollk12.org



Happy Winter!!

Happy almost December! We are into the second quarter of the year already. I hope that you have had a wonderful and calm start to the year.

We are well underway with Family Events this year. For December we have 2 events. December 2 will be Requirements for ALL: Pathways to Graduation. December 15 is the Sensory Friendly Santa event. As of now, the spots are completely filled (31 families with 8 families on the waitlist). If you are signed up and are unable to attend, please let me know ASAP so I can offer your spot to someone else.

In January we will have 3 presentations. On January 14 we will be having a virtual, daytime presentation on Financial Planning. We will then be at Carroll Community College on January 21. This presentation will provide information on what happens to your child's IEP or 504 when you leave the public school system. January 27 we will have a presentation on an area of DDA. Service Coordination will be presenting on Traditional vs. Self-Directed services.

If you register for an event and realize you are unable to attend, please let me know.

Have a great holiday with your families and stay safe, warm and cozy this winter!

Thank you!

Tammy

In This Issue:

- General Information
- Resources for ALL
- Resources for Birth to K
- Resources for students age 14-21
- Contact Information

Helpful Info

Family Support Website
Scheduling/Bookings Link
Inquiry Form
Instagram
Facebook
Email: Tammy.Chisholm@carrollk12.org

We are looking for at least 5 families to be registered for each presentation. Events could be canceled if there are not enough participants.

Winter Family Events

Please see flyers for more details and to register.

We are looking for at least 5 families to be registered for each presentation. Events could be canceled if there are not enough participants.

December

Tuesday, December 2:
Requirements for ALL, Pathways to Graduation

Monday, December 15:
Sensory Friendly Santa

Happy holidays

January

Wednesday, January 14:
Financial Planning

Wednesday, January 21: What happens to my child's IEP or 504 when they leave CCPS

Tuesday, January 27:
Traditional vs. Self-Directed for DDA Services

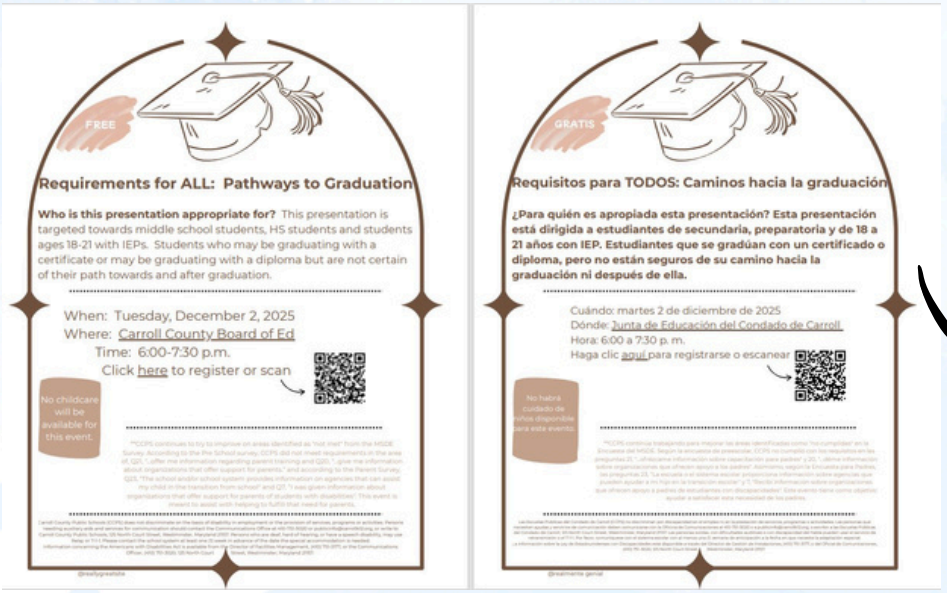


February

Tuesday, February 10:
Sensory Regulation Help

Thursday, February 19: Legal Planning for Special Needs

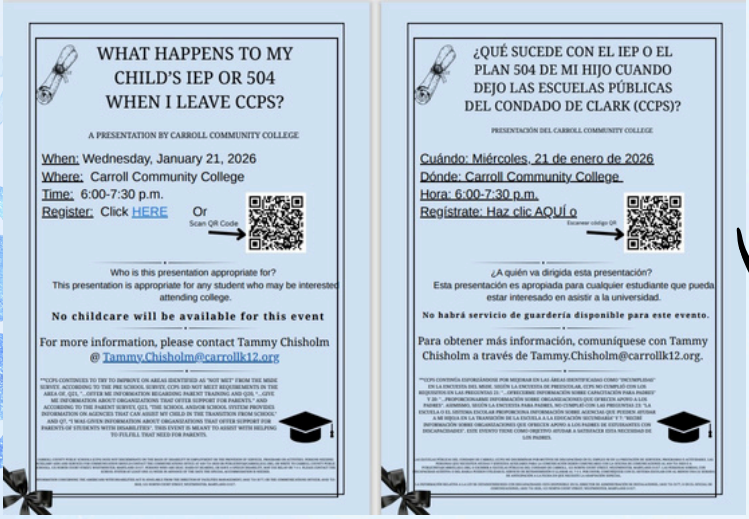
February flyers will be sent out in January.

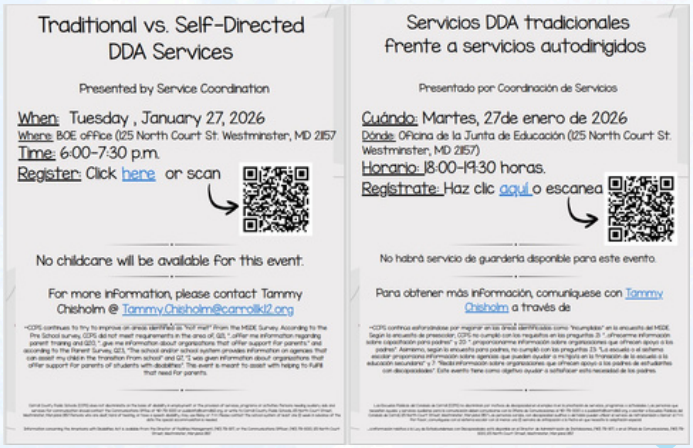


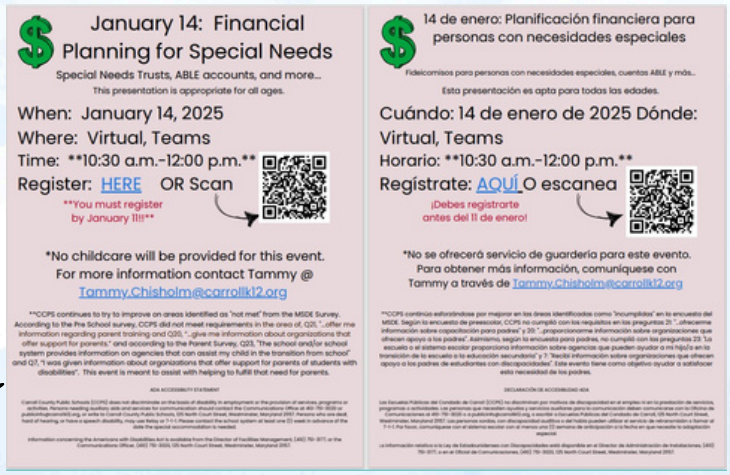


Winter Family Events, Continued

Please see flyers for more details and to register.







**To view previously recorded events, which will also provide knowledge and information regarding your child go to: CCPS YouTube

Basic Needs



Free Food Resources

- Westminster Rescue Mission WIC-410-876-2152 or email: WRMFoodProgram@WestminsterRescueMission.org
- Shelter/Housing: https://hspinc.org/shelter/
- Electricity: https://hspinc.org/homeenergy/
- WIC: https://health.maryland.gov/carroll/Pages/WIC.aspx

State and Local Resources

- MSB TVI Portal Maryland: https://sites.google.com/view/tviportalmaryland/calendar
- Link for flip book magazine, World of Possibilities: https://online.fliphtml5.com/tgsvz/cvhr/#p=Front%20Cover
- MD Learning Links: https://elevates.marylandpublicschools.org/
- Social Security Redbook: https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/
- MD Department of Health: https://health.maryland.gov/pages/home.aspx
- Medical Assistance: http://dhs.maryland.gov/weathering-tough times/medical-assistance/
- Parent's Place of MD: https://www.ppmd.org/
- Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County: https://healthycarroll.org/
- "ABLE accounts can help you to have more independence and a better quality of life. More independence, greater financial security and a better quality of life-that's the future Maryland ABLE wants to help build." Home: https://www.marylandable.org/
- MSDE Parent Series: https://www.marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Pages/Special-Education/FSDR/ParentInformationSeries-2.aspx
- Understood.org: https://www.understood.org/
- Acronym Help: Alphabet-Soup-SPED-1.2021-1-1.pdf or https://www.ppmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Transition-Glossary-6.2024.pdf
- The Freedom Center of MD (AT resources): https://thefreedomcenter-md.org/
- MDTAP (Maryland Technical Assistance Program): https://mdod.maryland.gov/mdtap/Pages/MDTAP-Home.aspx

Behavioral Health Crisis

- Behavioral Health Directory: https://healthycarroll.org/behavioral-health-directory/
- Carroll County Mobile Crisis: 410-952-9552 or https://thesantegroup.org/
- Step Behavioral Health: https://www.stepsbh.com/
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 Crisis Text Line: 741-741 **Always call 911 in the event of a behavioral health emergency.**
- Domestic Violence Family and Children's Services (Springboard Community Services): https://www.domesticshelters.org/help/md/westminster/21157/springboard-community-services
- Carroll County Hotline 24/7: 443-865-8031
- Child Abuse: To report suspected child abuse or neglect or to request assistance in an overwhelming situation where children may be at risk, call, 410-386-3434.
- Potomac Community Services Counseling Services: www.pcscounseling.org
- Children's Mental Health Matters: https://www.childrensmentalhealthmatters.org/
- Mindfulness and Relaxation Apps: Headspace, Calm, Breathe
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) Apps: MoodTools, Calm
- Journaling and Mood Tracking Apps: Daylio, Moodpath
- Psychology Today (find a therapist): https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/therapists



ABA Therapists

- Achieving True Self: http://www.achievingtrueself.com/
- Proud Moments: https://www.proudmomentsaba.com/
- Steps Behavioral Health: https://www.stepsbh.com/
- Infinity Center for Behavior: https://humanim.org/
- ABS: Advancing Beyond the Spectrum (ages 2-21): https://abstherapy.org/
- ABA Crown: crownaba.com
- Verbal Beginnings: verbalbeginnings.com
- Connec-to-talk: https://connec-to-talk.com/
- All Star ABA Therapy: allstaraba.org
- Proud Moments ABA: proudmomentsaba.com
- Brighter Strides ABA Therapy: brighterstridesaba.com
- Glacier ABA Therapy: https://autismalignment.com/aba-clinic/glacier-aba-therapy/

SECAC

The Carroll County Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee (SECAC) is a committee established by Carroll County Public Schools to seek meaningful input from parents, community partners, service providers, educators, and administrators on local issues about the achievement of students with disabilities. This collaboration enables the Director of Special Education to consider a variety of stakeholders' feedback which influences the delivery of special education services in Carroll County Public Schools. If you have concerns and desire to bring about positive change, please consider becoming an active member in this constructive process.

For more information about SECAC or to inquire about how to become a member, please send an email to SECAC@carrollk12.org

There is a parent representative for each school within Carroll County Public Schools. Feel free to reach out to the administrator at your child's school or send an email to SECAC@carrollk12.org if you would like to connect with your parent representative.

Lending Library



CCPS Family Support hosts a lending library filled with informative resources on disabilities, activities, and everybody books on grief, toileting, and much more. If you are interested in viewing what is available go to: Lending Library and search by Title, Author or Subject. If you find something you would like, please email Tammy and send a screenshot of the book or the call number and title. Tammy will send the book to your child's school, and he/she can bring it home to you. You would return it the same way. Questions? Email Tammy!



Who Can I Contact for Support?

01 > Special Education Case Manager

Contact your child's case manager at your school. A case manager is your point of contact for your child's IEP. A case manager ensures services and supports in the IEP are being provided.

02 > School Administrator

Contact your child's administrator at their school of attendance. Administrators attend IEP meetings and ensure that IEPs are being implemented by the responsible staff in their building.

03 > Family Support Center

The CCPS Family Support Center can provide information and answers regarding the IEP process and your Parental Rights in addition to offering support and assistance to resolve special education issues.

04 > Special Education Supervisor

Contact the Office of Special Education and ask to speak with the Special Education Supervisor who is assigned to your child's school. They are knowledgeable of the services and supports that can be provided at your school and throughout the county.

05 > Special Education Director

Contact the CCPS Director of Special Education. The Director ensures that schools are following state and federal laws and have the resources necessary to implement your child's IEP.

06 > CCPS Special Education Website

More valuable information is available on the CCPS Special Education Website.

CCPS Office of Special Education
125 North Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157
Phone: 410-751-3033
Fax: 410-751-3165

CCPS Family Support Center
495 South Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
Phone: 410-751-3955
Email: tlchish@carrollk12.org

Sick Child?

Please read below to determine when to cancel services (birth to kindergarten) or when to keep your child home from school (school age children).

For birth to kindergarten families receiving services in home or in a childcare setting:

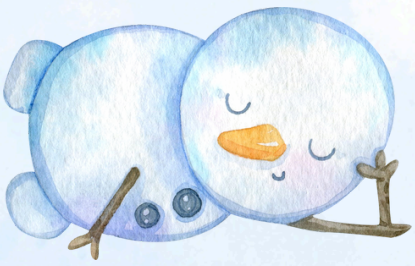
- If your child or another family member has been diagnosed with an illness such as chicken pox, strep throat, impetigo, live lice, or ringworm please contact your service provider, early intervention nurse to discuss when your child should resume services.
- If you are unsure about your child's ability to participate in his/her program, an early intervention nurse can consult with you and assist you in making this decision.

The following are times when your child probably should not be receiving services, either at home, in a center (birth-kindergarten) or in school (school age children):

- A temperature of 100 degrees or over. Your child should be free of fever for 24 hours without medication, before resuming services or sending your child to school.
- Vomiting or diarrhea that continues during the night and into the morning. Your child should be free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours.
- Respiratory symptoms accompanied by a fever.

**In addition to the above, parents of school age children should also consider: If your child has chicken pox, impetigo or live lice, they should be kept at home. For strep throat and ringworm, consult your child's doctor. The best way to prevent spread of germs is frequent hand washing.





Inclement Weather Policy



Inclement Weather is upon us!! Check out below so you know what to do if there is a bad weather which may cause a school delay or closure.

**For Birth-Kindergarten Families receiving services in home or in a childcare setting:

- In the event of inclement weather, please listen to local radio or television stations or check the CCPS website for school closings, late openings, or early dismissals to determine if your home visit, therapy appointment, evaluation, group, or meeting has been canceled.
- *Closed*: When CCPS is closed there will be no home visits, appointments, evaluations or meetings.
- 2-Hour late: Appointments before 10:00 a.m. are canceled. Appointments after 10:00 a.m. held as scheduled.
- 1—hour late: Appointments before 9:00 a.m. are canceled. Appointments after 9:00 a.m. held as scheduled.
- Early closing 3 hours: Appointments after 12:30 will be canceled
- Early closing 2 hours: Appointments after 1:30 will be canceled
- Early closing 1 hour: Appointments after 2:30 will be canceled.

NOTE: When home-based services resume following a snowfall, please be certain to clear a space for staff to park and assure a clear path to the entrance door.

**School aged children should follow CCPS Inclement weather policies and procedures





Birth to Kindergarten Corner

Carroll County Infant and Toddler (Ages 0 – 3)

Your child and family may be eligible for early intervention services if your child is under three years of age and has at least one of the following:

- A delay of 25 percent or more in development
- Is developing in a way that is considered "atypical" for most children his or her age
- A diagnosed condition that is likely to affect development, such as a genetic disorder, deafness or blindness

When an infant or toddler is suspected of having a disability, developmental delay, or special heath care need, he or she may be referred to the Carroll County Infants and Toddlers Program (CCITP) by parents, a health or education provider, child care or social service provider, or a staff person from the hospital, just to name a few. Your child may have received a developmental screening at the doctor's office or through your child care provider that recommended a referral to your local Infants and Toddlers Program.

Once a referral is made to the CCITP, the intake process begins through conversation and information gathering about your child and family. Then, with your consent, the CCITP arranges for a service coordinator to schedule a screening or to schedule an evaluation at no cost to the family to determine if your child and family are eligible for services.

Referrals for children between birth and thirty-four and one half months of age can be made by contacting the CCITP to request an evaluation at 410-876-4437 or complete the online referral at referral.mditp.org.



Preschool Child Find (Ages 3 – 5)

The first step in determining eligibility for preschool special education and related services is a referral made to the CCPS' Child Find office. Child Find provides free developmental screenings for children from three years of age until kindergarten. Child Find is a process for identifying and evaluating children ages 3 to 5 (prior to entrance to kindergarten) who are suspected of having a disability and may be eligible for special education and related services. Any individual who is familiar with the child's development may make a Child Find referral including parents/guardians, medical professionals, and family service professionals. If you have concerns about your child's development and learning, you do not need to wait for a professional to suggest a referral. Referrals to Carroll County's Child Find office can be made by calling 410-876-4437. Or you can make a referral by going to: Child Find Referral

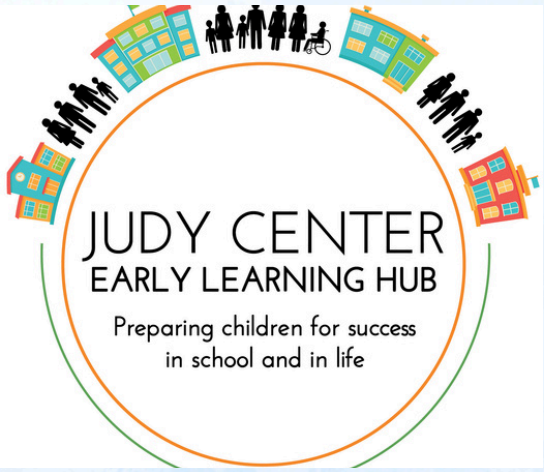
What happens after I make a referral? After a child is referred, the parent/guardian will be contacted to schedule a meeting. At this meeting, the Individualized Education Team (IEP) Team will determine if an individualized evaluation of skills is necessary. Parent/Guardian permission is necessary to proceed with any evaluation that may be recommended. Following completion of assessments, the IEP Team, of which parents are essential members, reconvenes to review and discuss findings to determine your child's eligibility for special education and related services.

Judy Center Early Learning Hubs

The Carroll County Public Schools Judy Center Early Learning Hubs at Robert Moton, Elmer Wolfe and Taneytown Elementary Schools serve children birth through age 5 and their families in an effort to increase the number of children entering these schools ready to learn. Judy Center Learning Hubs are unique because they promote school readiness through collaboration with community-based agencies, organizations and businesses. The Judy Center Early Learning Hubs work with a variety of partners to offer the following services and more:

- Playgroups
- Family Engagement and Activities
- Referrals for Support Services
- Collaboration with Community Resources/Agencies
- Parent Workshops
- Parents as Teachers (PAT) Home Visitation Program
- Summer Programming
- Family Support
- Monthly Newsletters

Interested in learning more about the Judy Center Early Learning Hub? Please visit the CCPS webpage here: Judy Center Early Learning Hubs



Birth to Kindergarten Corner, Continued

Recipes	Fine Motor	Gross Motor
Healthy Winter themed snacks	Winter themed fine motor	Winter themed gross motor
		
Speech and Language	**Reading and Writing**	**Math**
Winter themed Speech and language activities	Winter themed books for reading and writing	Winter themed math activities
		

Do you have a HS student who is interested in sports?
Check out the Corollary Athletic Program.

- *attain and develop an interest in activities that have the potential for lifetime sports participation;*
- *develop an understanding, appreciation, and acceptance of individual abilities and differences.*

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- In order to be able to participate in the Corollary Athletic Program a student must:
- be a secondary student in grades 9-12, or post secondary special education;
- officially register and attend a CCPS school;
- meet all high school eligibility requirements regarding attendance and conduct;
- turn in a parent permission form, medical approval form and emergency information form prior to practice;
- making satisfactory progress toward graduation with a Maryland High School Diploma or school completion with a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion;
- have not participated as a member of a Varsity or Junior Varsity Interscholastic Athletic team in the same sport. If a student acquires a disability during his/her years of participation in interscholastic sports, an exception could be made;

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Athletics
Carroll County Public Schools

125 N Court Street
Westminster, MD 21157

Michael Duffy
Supervisor of Athletics

(410) 751-3059
Fax (410) 751-3921

mlduffy@carrollk12.org

Rob Vaughn
Instructional Consultant for Adapted Physical Education
(410) 751-3610
wrvaugh@carrollk12.org

or

contact your local High School Athletic Director



Building the Future
CCPS
Carroll County Public Schools

2024-2025 COROLLARY

ATHLETIC PROGRAM







CO-ED ATHLETICS FOR STUDENTS WITH VARIED ABILITIES

For more information speak with your child's case manager.



Transition Connections Academy

Mission Statement

The Carroll County Public Schools Transition Connections Academy is dedicated to empowering young adults with disabilities, so they will become self-directed individuals, responsible citizens, autonomous communicators and active participants in their community and workplace.

We recognize and value individuality and focus on nurturing the unique gifts and talents each of our students has to offer.

Our mission is to provide relevant academic instruction, authentic vocational experiences, and to build strong community partnerships, so our students are prepared with the skills they will need to face the challenges of the future.

The Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) Transition Connections Academy was designed to provide additional learning opportunities, more importantly, work-based learning experiences (WBLEs) beyond students' four years in high school. The Academy is open to students with significant cognitive disabilities working toward a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion, ages 18 to 21. Academy placement is an IEP team decision based on each student's educational needs and level of independence.

The Academy was designed in collaboration with a variety of community partners to provide the best possible learning opportunities for students. Our partners include Carroll Community College, Carroll Hospital, McDaniel College, Division of Rehabilitation Services, local community rehabilitation providers, members of the Carroll business community, as well as local government and law enforcement agencies. These partnerships have correlated to post-school success in the areas of independent living, community participation, and employment for students of CCPS.

The Academy is composed of five seamless transition programs, aligned with evidence-based practices, and implemented to increase the number of youth actively engaged in post-secondary activities such as education, technical and career training, and employment after exiting CCPS. All programs focus heavily on enhancing independence and increasing students' individual capacity in the areas of functional academics, independent living, self-determination/self-advocacy, career development and communication and social skills.

The use of technology, including a variety of light and high-tech devices for communication, specialized software and apps for reading and written communication and using cell phones as tools, is integrated into each program to enable authentic communication and enhance independence. The anticipated outcome is competitive integrated employment for all students.

For more information go to: TCA
Or email Julie Koontz, Coordinator for TCA @ Julie.Koontz@carrollk12.org

Transition Services
Students age 14-21

NTACT The Collaborative: National Technical Assistance Center on Transition
**Graduation, transition, employment, SSI, and so much more. Click on the link above to visit their website.

Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)	https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/home.aspx	
DDA MD Provider site	https://maryland.providersearch.com/	
SSI	https://www.ssa.gov/ssi	
Maryland ID	https://shorturl.at/icIoQ	
Other things to consider are Financial Planning and Legal Planning (recorded presentations can be found on CCPS YouTube).	CCPSYouTube	



Transition Services
Students age 14-21

Governor's Transitioning Youth Initiative Timeline

Student Age

14-18	18	19	20
Apply to DDA and DORS	Apply for SSI and Medical Assistance	Explore post-secondary options	Contact, interview and choose your provider

Before Final Year

Over the Summer/Before the Age of 21

- Apply for SSI and Medical Assistance, if not already completed
- Meet with your Service Coordinator to discuss transition planning
- Start gathering important information - birth certificate, school records, medical records
- Talk to your SC about what information is needed.

Final Year

SEPT OCT NOV

After school starts

- Invite your SC to the IEP meeting
- Attend local transition events - ask your school or SC for specific information
- Meet, interview, visit at least 3 providers
- Start filling out the provider application(s)

DEC

Before the Christmas/Winter Break

- Select 1 provider (and a back up) and tell your SC and school transition facilitator
- Start gathering waiver financial documents over the break - ask your SC for more information
- Talk to your SC about Self-directed services

JAN FEB MAR

After the New Year

- Apply for the waiver, provide needed financial documents to your Service Coordinator
- Provide needed information to your chosen provider (i.e. medical records, ID, SS card)
- Talk to your chosen provider for more information
- Share with your chosen provider/SC if you plan to start services later than July 1st
- Ask your SC about transportation options - apply for mobility/paratransit, if needed

APR MAY

Around Spring Break

- Review your Transition Plan

JUNE

After Graduation

- Services will start on or after July 1st, depending on funding and submission of all documentation



If you need or want help with filling out a DDA application, please email Tammy @ Tammy.Chisholm@carrollk12.org

Virginia Career View Resources

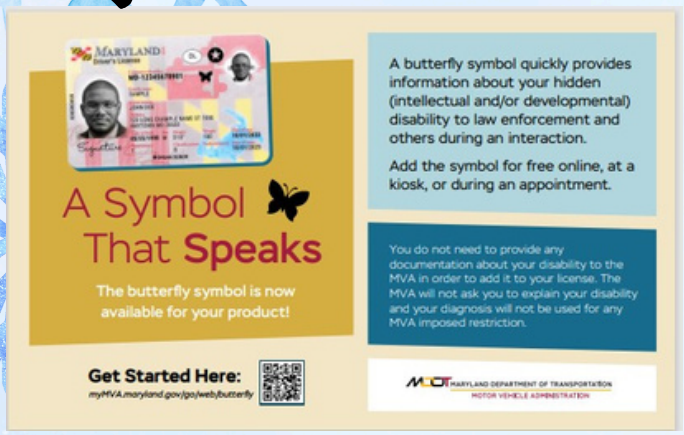
Free Career Activities to do with Kids

Check out this list of a month's worth of career exploration activities that are all free. Check off each activity you complete, or cut out the squares and draw them out of a jar for some variety.

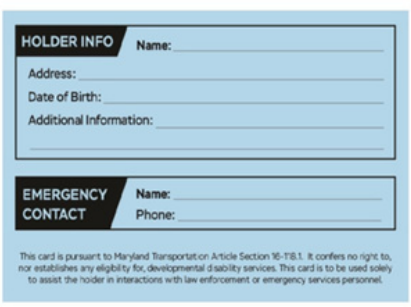
Check out career books at the library.	Track the progress of a construction project in your area. Talk about the tools used.	Interview someone about a career.
Create a career collage from magazines.	Create a community career book.	Visit the local fire department, post office, and rescue squad.
List the jobs at a school. Talk about how the jobs work together in school.	Ask a child about their favorite career and explain.	Draw or paint a favorite career.
Rent kids videos from the library that talk about different careers.	Identify careers you spot on a car ride.	Ask kids to name 3 careers that work with food.
Visit a farm, orchard, park, or national forest.	Talk about jobs you see at the store.	Allow kids to assist an adult with cooking and preparing food.
Assign kids chores and talk about skills.	Name a career related to a favorite school subject.	Name careers in sports other than a professional athlete.
Name 3 careers that work with animals. Pick one to draw.	Name 3 careers that work outside.	Name careers that work with money.
Name careers that work with kids.	Send a thank you note to someone in a helping career. THANK YOU	Talk about how school skills relate to good work habits.
Name a job for each letter of the alphabet.	Talk about large employers in your city or town.	Name the jobs at a favorite vacation spot.
What careers involve driving?	Sculpt careers out of play dough and try to guess what they are.	Try to guess a career by naming three clues about the career.

www.vacareerview.org Virginia Career VIEW Virginia Tech 1-800-542-5870

Need a picture ID for your child who has a Developmental Disability? Check these out. Available at the MVA







Contact Card

Tammy Chisholm	Tammy.Chisholm@carrollk12.org **410-751-3955**
Inquiry (need help?)	Inquiry Form Link
Bookings Link (calendar/appointment link)	Book with Tammy using this link
Social Media	**Instagram:** https://www.instagram.com/ **Facebook:** https://www.facebook.com/
CCPS YouTube (event recordings)	YouTube
CCPS Family Support Website	Click here for the CCPS Family Support site

Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in employment or the provision of services, programs or activities. Persons needing auxiliary aids and services for communication should contact the Communications Office at 410-751-3020 or publicinfo@carrollk12.org, or write to Carroll County Public Schools, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, may use Relay or 7-1-1. Please contact the school system at least one (1) week in advance of the date the special accommodation is needed.

Information concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act is available from the Director of Facilities Management, (410) 751-3177, or the Communications Officer, (410) 751-3020, 125 North Court Street, Westminster, Maryland 21157.