

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO TRANSITION PLANNING

What You Should Know: *Helping your student journey into adulthood*

The 3 main areas of transition planning:

Transition planning is the process of your student moving through high school, preparing for graduation, and life after graduation. The three areas of planning are education, employment, and independent living.

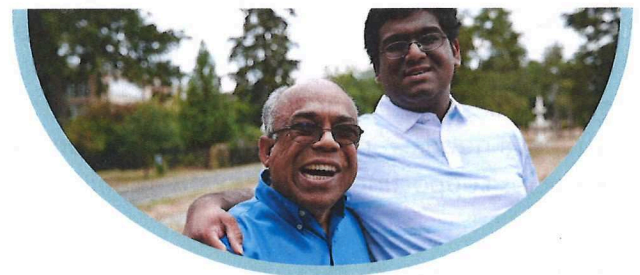
What are the most important ages for planning your student's journey into adulthood?

Age 14: Transition services can begin.

Age 16: Your student must have a statement of transition in their IEP and an appropriate transition plan that details how they will make progress on post-secondary transition goals. It is important that transition services are individualized for your student's wants and needs.

Transition services, such as postsecondary education and training, supported employment, independent living, and getting involved in the community, can all be part of the journey to adulthood. Students may need assistance in some or all of these areas. Strategies to achieve measurable postsecondary goals and who will be supporting your student (school staff, agencies, family members) should be stated in your student's IEP and reviewed each year.

Age 18: Known as the *age of majority*, your student legally becomes an adult. All decision-making authority is transferred from you to your adult student, (see "Transfer of Rights" section in the IEP for more details). Your student may write a letter to their school giving you, the parent(s), the right to continue managing their education matters.



What does an effective transition plan in an IEP (Individualized Education Program) look like?

The transition plan must first have a statement of your student's preferences, strengths, and interests. Their courses of study should be identified. Next, appropriate measurable secondary goals should be listed with strategies to achieve those goals. Annual goals in the IEP should be linked to your student's postsecondary goals.


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