

# TRANSITION: MAPPING A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

## WHAT IS TRANSITION?

Transition is a continuous and collaborative process of moving from school to adulthood.

Transition planning is a map of the student's vision for his/her future developed by the student, family members, school personnel, adult service providers, and agencies.

Transition planning is learning about school and community resources. Initiated by the school, the focus of transition is on designing a program that identifies the resources available to meet the post-secondary goals of student and family. At annual Admissions, Review, Dismissal (ARD) meetings, transition information is reviewed and becomes an integrated part of the student's Individual Educational Plan (IEP).

All students need support as they prepare for independence. Transition planning is critical in providing students with disabilities and their families with the knowledge to empower them to successfully chart their future.

## WHAT ARE TRANSITION SERVICES?

Transition services are a set of activities designed to act as a compass to assist the student in moving successfully from school to post-secondary life. These services are determined by individual student needs, interests, and preferences. Specific activities may be focused on instruction, employment, post-secondary education, housing, transportation, recreation and leisure, reaching age of majority, and physical and mental health needs.



## WHO PARTICIPATES IN TRANSITION?

A multidisciplinary collaborative team that includes:

- Student
- Parents / Guardians
- Teachers
- Vocational Representative
- Counselor
- Adult Service Representatives
- Post-Secondary Education Representatives

Parents and/or the student are encouraged to bring relevant information, resources, and invite other participants who have knowledge or special expertise regarding the student.



## WHEN DOES TRANSITION START?

Every student and family has dreams about what the future holds. Discussion of these dreams and plans for the future should be ongoing in the family setting and at school throughout the student's school career.

Beginning in the sixth grade, transition planning will start addressing the student's secondary and post-secondary goals. In high school, as graduation becomes a reality, transition becomes more focused on post-secondary goals, instructional supports and services, adult service providers and agencies needed to assist in making those goals become a reality.



## HOW CAN STUDENTS PREPARE FOR TRANSITION PLANNING?

- Identify interests through academic subjects they enjoy and develop hobbies.
- Think beyond high school to post-secondary education and employment.
- Become familiar with career cluster areas that "fit" with his/her interests.
- Identify areas of strength and need, learning preference, and work habits.
- Talk to family members, teachers, counselors, and friends about goals after graduation.
- Develop an employment resume.
- Gather information about colleges and/or technical schools.
- Assist in identifying and setting goals for school.
- Complete a four-year plan.

## HOW CAN PARENTS PREPARE FOR TRANSITION PLANNING?

- Complete and return the transition parent survey sent home from the school.
- Discuss plans for the future with your son/daughter.
- Set goals for yourself and your son/daughter for post-graduation life.
- Assist your son/daughter in identifying areas of strength and need, learning preferences, and work habits.
- Assist your son/daughter in gathering information on career clusters and post-secondary education options and appropriate adult services and supports.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact your child's special education case manager.

