

Transition Fact Sheet

What is Transition?

Transition planning and services are required by Federal and State law and regulation. It is a process which requires planning for your teen's future. Services begin at age 14 and are reviewed every year. Your school district is responsible for starting the transition process. Advance planning for adult services and coordination of those services begin before your child exits school. Coordination of transition services should help your teen prepare for his/her future dreams. Some examples of transition services are:

- ◆ Career/Rehabilitation Counseling
- ◆ Linkage to Community Agencies
- ◆ Vocational Assessment
- ◆ Community Based Instruction
- ◆ Job Coaching & Shadowing
- ◆ Work Experience/Volunteering
- ◆ College/Adult Education Support Services
- ◆ Independent Living Skills
- ◆ Service Coordination/Case Management

Why is transition planning important?

Students with special needs often have a difficult time deciding what they want to do and knowing what they can do after High School. Students move from school to adult services based on differing eligibility requirements. Transition planning can make this change easier. Transition planning is a partnership and a process. The purpose of transition planning is to help students: Clarify their dreams for the future; Link their interests with strengths; Apply their strengths to future endeavors; and Identify community support.

What are the roles of parents/legal guardians in planning transition services?

- Participate actively in the Committee of Special Education (CSE) meetings.
- Communicate with the school and community agency staff
- Ask key questions at planning meetings, such as:
 - ◆ What are my child's choices?
 - ◆ Will my child be able to meet graduation requirements?
 - ◆ How will the recommended classes & experiences develop my child's skills or knowledge for adult living, learning or working?
- Assist your child in learning about adult services & resources that are available to help him/her to prepare for adult life.
- Assist your child in advocating for him or herself
- Encourage your child to engage in community experiences & have household responsibilities.

What is the school's responsibility?

NYS law states that all children are entitled to free and appropriate education. The school district must provide reasonable accommodations in an educational plan that meets your child's needs. School staff is responsible for the following to transition your child out of school:

- Notifying parents/guardians that transition services will be incorporated into their child's IEP at age 14
- Administration of initial career/vocational assessment
- Discuss the following curriculum areas at CSE meetings: Academic, Social, Communication, Independent Living Skills, Occupational, Extra Curricular Activities
- Develop transition component for the IEP and review annually.

Who can I ask for further information?

Talk with your child's teacher and guidance counselor. If your child is involved with a community program, they may also be able to assist.