Welcome

Advocate Academy 101:
Transition Plans-GA
The Importance of Transition Planning
What is a Transition Plan?

● A formal process which assists students with disabilities to prepare for life after high school.

● Transition Plans are more than brainstorming sessions; they are detailed plans meant to assist students with disabilities to achieve independent living.

● The plan will have specific goals with steps on how to achieve the goals.
The Purpose of a Transition Plan:

- Establish *postsecondary goals*
- Outline steps to help *achieve* those goals
- Sharing of *community & state resources* that assist students with disabilities
- To learn about *self-advocacy*
- Ensure *success* outside of the public K-12 school setting
“A truly **successful transition process** is the result of **comprehensive team planning** that is driven by the dreams, desires and abilities of youth. A transition plan provides the basic structure for preparing an individual to **live, work and play in the community, as fully and independently as possible**.”

The PACER Institute
The Details of Transition Planning
The **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA** contains *mandatory* transition service provisions.

Your child’s IEP *must contain supports and services* needed to assist the student so they can learn the necessary skills to achieve their post high school goals.

**IDEA** requires for transition to start no later than age 16; however, your district could start earlier.
What’s In a Transition Plan?

- Student's postsecondary interests, education, and/or possible careers.
- Appropriate postsecondary goals that are based on age-appropriate transition assessments.
- Assessments should be related to training, education, employment and independent living skills.
- Student will be encouraged to start attending IEP meetings and to lead them.
- After interests and goals are determined, the IEP Team develops a plan to implement the goals.
- Transition goals are similar to IEP goals; so make them SMART

Evaluations: Request that your child be re-evaluated before they leave school.
Students with 504 Plans do **NOT** have the same rights to school based transition planning that students with IEPs have.

Ask if your school district provides transition planning to your child with a 504 Plan. If the school doesn't, there are **other ways** to plan for your child.
Your child has a 504 Plan, and the school district doesn't provide transition services. What's next?

Research your state's Vocational Rehabilitation Center.

Services vary by state; however, Voc Rehab (VR) can help with:

- Identifying possible careers
- Finding a job
- Job support through coaching (to help keep a job)
- If needed, finding assistive technology for the workplace
- Classes that teach independent living skills
- Apprenticeship programs or on-the-job training
- Self-advocacy training and assistance
Postsecondary Education

If your child plans on attending college, there are steps you can take together, to ensure a smooth transition.

- Review the programs and degree paths
- Ask about campus life & if it's inclusive to students with disabilities
- Talk with the Disability Services Office about accommodations
- Research the financial aid process
- The student needs to learn about their rights & responsibilities
If your child wants to work after high school, the **Americans with Disabilities Act** will protect them in the workplace:

“The ADA protects the civil rights of individuals who:

- Have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities,
- Have a record of such an impairment, or
- Are regarded as having such an impairment. Major life activities include walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, working, caring for oneself, and performing manual tasks.”
Linked Articles & Resources

➢ IEP Transition Plan

➢ Office of Special Education & Rehabilitative Services

➢ Transition Planning from Wrightslaw

➢ Vocational Rehabilitation

➢ 504 Plans and Transition

➢ Postsecondary Education

➢ Section 504 & Transitions
Resources:
National Resources

➢ National Center for Learning Disabilities:
  www.ncld.org

➢ National Parent Center on Transitions & Employment
  https://www.pacer.org/transition/

➢ Learning Disabilities Association of America:
  wwwldaamerica.org

➢ Understood
  www.understood.org
Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP): https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep

Parent Center Hub: www.parentcenterhub.org

Wrightslaw Special Education Law & Advocacy www.wrightslaw.com

Job Advocacy Network: https://askjan.org/
Please be sure to:

● Follow us on social media: @nclldorg and @LD_Advocate

   facebook.com/NCLD.org/
   instagram.com/nclldorg/ and @nclldorg

● For general information questions: info@nclld.org

● For policy questions: policy@nclld.org
Thank you!