



National Center for Learning Disabilities

**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

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 Center for Learning Disabilities:
www.nclld.org
- National Parent Center on Transitions & Employment
<https://www.pacer.org/transition/>
- Learning Disabilities Association of America:
www.ldaamerica.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/>

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Thank you!