



What are Transition Services?

The term "transition services" means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation;
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation. [34 CFR 300.43 (a)] [20 U.S.C. 1401(34) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act]

The transition process is designed to help your son or daughter move smoothly from school to adult life. This process formally begins when your child reaches the age of 14. However, at age 12, a Level 1 vocational assessment which is made up of a student, parent and teacher interview is completed. This assessment helps with identifying your child's strengths, needs, preferences and interests. Transition planning is part of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process and will be reviewed and updated each year. These planning sessions will identify desired outcomes and develop action plans in the areas of:

- Legal/Advocacy
- Personal Independence/Residential
- Recreation/Leisure
- Financial/Income
- Medical/Health
- Employment (with or without supports)
- Transportation
- Vocational Training/Continuing Post-Secondary Education
- Other Individual and Family Support Needs and Services

Using person-centered planning techniques, the transition process focuses on your son or daughter's interests and abilities in developing a plan for the future.

Early planning is essential! There is **NO GUARANTEE** of a job, day program, or residence once your son or daughter leaves school. However, early planning ensures that you increase the chances of positive results!

- It provides more time to explore options and alternatives with representatives from school and agencies.
- It will help your son or daughter get appropriate services upon graduation.
- It will help get support from agencies (other than the NYC Department of Education) that can be put in place while your child is still in school.
- It will identify skills to be developed that will lead to greater participation in the community for your son or daughter.
- It helps to focus on all your child's needs.
- It relieves anxiety for your entire family when a plan is formulated.



How does it work?

The Transition Individualized Education Plan will be developed by a team which includes the student, his/her parent(s), school staff and outside agency personnel. It will be developed based on your child's strengths, needs, preferences and abilities and the goals will be based on your child's (and your family's) dreams and desires. Specific tasks may be assigned to each member of the team to help your son or daughter achieve his or her long-term goals. The Transition Linkage Coordinator (TLC) will be the liaison at the school who can assist you and your child with coordinating many of the transition activities. The Transition Plan will be updated as needs and interests change.

What You Can Do Now

- Talk to your child about what he/she wants to do when he/she leaves school
- Visit the Family Support Fair in your borough
- Participate in your borough's OMRDD or MH Council
- Identify support services and programs for your son/daughter and family (e.g., family support services, SSI/Medicaid, Service Coordination)
- Use the public transportation system with your child
- Review Guardianship and Estate Planning issues
- Talk to and educate your son/daughter about their disability and medical management needs (as needed)
- Collect information about your child
- Set goals for the future with your child
- Learn about resources
- Explore post secondary options with your child (e.g. ACCES-VR, OPWDD, OMH programs and/or educational opportunities)
- Be an active team member
- You and your child need to attend all scheduled transition meetings
- Stay involved and communicate with school staff as often as possible (e.g. Transition Linkage Coordinator, Teacher, Guidance Counselor)
- Periodically review and monitor the transition plan and services with your child and other team members
- **If you are not sure about something or want more information,**

ASK!!!! ASK!!!! ASK!!!!!!!

Transition Websites and Resources:

Virtual Office of Transition Services

<http://virtualots.blogspot.com>

District 75 Office of Transition Services

<http://schools.nyc.gov/Offices/District75/Departments/Transition/default.htm>

Adult Career and Continuing Education Services (ACCES-VR)(formerly VESID)

<http://www.acces.nysed.gov/>

Resources for Children with Special Needs

<http://www.resourcesnyc.org>

CareerZone (Career exploration website)

<http://www.nycareerzone.org>