

## **Planning special education transition beyond school**

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By age 16 students with disabilities have a different type of IEP, a transition IEP, a unified plan of activity based on the student's needs and interests, to get the student from high school to graduation and the world of work and adult living. Although the plan must be in place by age 16, some transition planning should begin by age 12. There is no single plan for every student.

Transition IEP's must address a student's individualized needs. Important issues may be graduation and adult supports.

Some students' goals may address employment needs only, or planning for college or vocational education and employment after high school graduation at age 18.

Other students with disabilities will need adult disability services for employment, health care, financial issues, assisted living or independent living, recreation, and continuing education. For these students staying in school services until age 21 may be an important service. By age 18 these students and their families will need to consider establishing adult guardianship or power of attorney for signing documents.

At age 21 students with severe disabilities may become eligible for state-supported disability services. In addition some families may want to create financial support through a special needs trust for the person with continuing special needs.

Parents and students have many questions about establishing a useful transition IEP for school-based transition services. An IEP Case Manager can help the family use information about the student's needs to design a successful transition plan that fits the student's interests and needs. When families have questions about family-based financial support and power of attorney issues an attorney who specializes in trusts and power of attorney can design the arrangements for a family member with severe disabilities.

Below are some good sources of transition information for students and their families:

### Transition services

<https://www.naset.org/transervices4.0.html> - NASET National Association of Special Education Teachers

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html>  
U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights

### Transition assessment

<http://sped.sbcsc.k12.in.us/ppm/transitionplanning/transitionassessments.html>

a list of downloadable transition assessments from South Bend Community Schools Corporation

Each state has a Department of Education website with helpful resources.

### Post secondary education

<http://www.rwm.org/rwm/>  
Real Work Matters

<http://www.trade-schools.net>  
Trade Schools, Colleges and Universities

<http://www.nasetalliance.org>  
National Alliance for Secondary Education and Transition

**Every child deserves a special education.**

**Dr. Fennick helps families understand and use their child's records to create the best plan for the child's individual needs.**

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