



# Limited Circumstances Where a Person Ages 18–21 May Receive DDD Services

## IDEA Overview

- Students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, ages 3–21, are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Students receive special education and related services identified through their Individualized Education Program (IEP), as determined by the IEP team.
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team determines the Special Education and Related Services that students receive.
- The local educational agency (LEA) is responsible for making sure all services are provided at no cost to the student or parents.

## Transition to Division Services

- **Ideally, families should optimize and exhaust all resources provided by their child's school district before transferring to the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), as DDD services are less comprehensive than those provided by a student's school district.**
- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who have established eligibility for DDD services will receive them when they reach the age of 21, after which they will no longer be eligible for IDEA services.

## Early Enrollment in Division Services

- If a young adult (18–21) with IDD graduates before turning 21 years of age, they may be eligible for DDD services **under limited circumstances**
- If eligible, individuals may enroll in Division services starting at age 18 to:
  1. **Support immediate enrollment at a higher education institution or trade school that is not funded by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.**
  2. **Support competitive integrated employment that has already been established.**
- If these options apply to you, contact a DDD representative for Options Counseling at least six months before anticipated graduation to make sure the individual is eligible for DDD services.

## Important Considerations and Contact Information

- This flexibility does not allow enrollment in DDD services before the age of 21 for reasons such as enrolling in a DDD-funded adult day habilitation program.
- Email [DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:DDD.TransitionHelpdesk@dhs.nj.gov) for more information.
- Additional support is available from organizations like the [SPAN Parent Advocacy Network](#) and [The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute](#) for questions about the IEP process.

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute

 <https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/>

 [fi@arcnj.org](mailto:fi@arcnj.org)

# Word Bank & Resource Page

## Word Bank

- **Options Counseling:** A supportive process where experts help you explore different services and supports available for people with disabilities. This helps you make informed decisions about what might work best for you or your loved one.
- **IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act):** A federal law that ensures children with disabilities have the right to a free and appropriate public education that meets their individual needs.
- **FAPE (Free Appropriate Public Education):** Students with disabilities are entitled to a free education that is tailored to their unique needs, provided by public schools.
- **IEP (Individualized Education Program):** A personalized education plan created for each student with disabilities. It outlines specific educational goals and the services and supports needed to help the student succeed.
- **LEA (Local Educational Agency):** This refers to your local school district or organization responsible for providing education services in your area. It is public entity that manages public schools and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of a school district or charter school. LEAs can include: School districts, County offices of education, Charter schools, and Special education local plan areas (SELPA)
- **Day Habilitation:** Programs that offer daily activities and support designed to help individuals with disabilities build life skills, improve social interactions, and engage in meaningful activities.

## Resources

- **IEP Go Bag:** [bit.ly/iepgobag](http://bit.ly/iepgobag)
- **DDD Go Bag:** [bit.ly/dddgobag](http://bit.ly/dddgobag)
- **IEP Fact Sheet:** [bit.ly/IEPfactsheet](http://bit.ly/IEPfactsheet)
- **Education Advocate:** [bit.ly/educationadvocate](http://bit.ly/educationadvocate)
- **PFAL:** [planningforadulthood.org](http://planningforadulthood.org)
- **Transition Fact Sheet:** [bit.ly/transitionfactsheet](http://bit.ly/transitionfactsheet)
- **Transition Checklist:** [bit.ly/fitransitionchecklist](http://bit.ly/fitransitionchecklist)
- **Family Institute Website:** [thearcfamilyinstitute.org](http://thearcfamilyinstitute.org)
- **Intake Offices by County:** [bit.ly/intakeoffices](http://bit.ly/intakeoffices)
- **SPAN Website:** [spanadvocacy.org](http://spanadvocacy.org)

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The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute



<https://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/>



[fi@arcnj.org](mailto:fi@arcnj.org)

