TRANSITION SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

November 2022

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for a child aged 14-21 with a disability that focus on facilitating a child's movement from school to post-school activities. These services should be a combination of classroom instruction and community-based experiences. Every student who receives special education and related services is entitled to receive transition services under federal and state law.

What are we planning for?

1. Postsecondary Education
2. Vocational Education
3. Integrated Employment
4. Continuing/Adult Education
5. Adult Service Systems
6. Self-Advocacy
7. Independent Living
8. Community Participation

Examples of Services/Instruction

- Job Training and Coaching
- Self-Advocacy Skills
- Banking/Budgeting
- Work-Related Social Skills
- Personal Health and Hygiene
- Transportation Options
- Visiting Colleges and Employers

*This is **not** an exhaustive list of services*

Who makes the plan?

- The Student
- Family Members
- The IEP Case Manager
- Teachers
- DDD or DVRS
- Service Providers
- Advocates

<u>Starting at age 14, students in New Jersey with IEPs MUST be invited to their IEP meetings.</u>

DEVELOPING A TRANSITION PLAN

Age-appropriate transition assessments (AATA) are used as part of the ongoing process of transition planning. These are formal and informal strategies used to collect information about a student's strengths, challenges, interests, and preferences. These factors help the team develop goals and decide what services best fit the student.

Some examples include:
- Career/Academic interest surveys
- Skills inventories
- Direct observation
- Independence assessments

Assessments may differ, but should always address where the student is, where they are going, and how they will get there.

CREATING GOALS

Transition plans should always include postsecondary and annual goals that are appropriate and realistic for that student. These goals can change over time but should be based on the transition assessments. Having annual goals included gives the student the ability to achieve small pieces of a much larger goal as they progress through high school.

- SMART is a common acronym for developing these goals.
- Goals should be:
  - **S**pecific,
  - **M**easurable,
  - **A**chievable,
  - **R**ealistic, and
  - **T**ime-Bound

ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO...

- <u>Speak openly</u> about their learning needs
- <u>Explain what services</u> they should be receiving, and what those services are meant to provide.
- <u>Slowly integrate themselves</u> into IEP meetings (e.g. 10 minutes for the first meeting, then increase from there).
- <u>Choose a section of the IEP</u> and prepare something to add, such as interests, strengths, and preferences.
- <u>Include extracurricular interests</u> in the IEP.
- <u>Ask</u> for their support.
- <u>Think about their transition goals</u> and how they are going to work on them.
- <u>Set their own</u> annual and postsecondary goals.
- <u>Remember it is a process.</u> Student participation takes time and requires ongoing conversations about the student's disability and needs.

EXAMPLES OF TRANSITION GOALS

STUDENTS PURSUING EMPLOYMENT

Long-Term/Postsecondary Goals

After graduation, (Student) will obtain part-time employment in the (career interest) field at least 20 hours per week with temporary vocational support.

(Student) will increase hours to full-time employment after one year with vocational services, if needed.

Annual Goals

(Student) will sample 6 different jobs in the community by the end of marking period three, and rank each by interest and success.

(Student) will intern or volunteer in the (career interest) field 10 hours per week with the support of a job coach.

STUDENTS PURSUING COLLEGE

Long-Term/Postsecondary Goals

(Student) will attend a four-year college to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science.

After graduation, (Student) will enroll at Brookdale Community College for 6 credits per semester and contact the disability services office for support if needed.

Annual Goals

By January 2023, (Student) will complete and submit 2 college applications, with support from the school's guidance counselor.

By May 2023, (Student) will register with Access Link and complete 4 practice trips to Brookdale Community College.

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