



## Education Transition Planning

### What is an Individual Education Program (IEP)?

A written Individual Education Program (IEP) describes the educational program that is designed to meet the educational needs of a student with disabilities.

- If a student meets the criteria to receive special education, he or she will receive an IEP.
- Creating an IEP is a joint effort between the parent, student, teachers, school administrators and others who have evaluated the student.

### What is Transition Planning?

For students with an IEP, transition planning is a mandatory section of the document.

- The transition plan outlines the goals, services, and plan needed by the student to move from school to post-school activities.
- These activities can include post-secondary education, employment, independent living and community participation.
- Transition plans must look at the student's strengths, preferences, and interests.
- Remember transition planning is a process.

### When should Transition Planning Begin?

- Illinois law states that transition planning should begin at age 14 ½ and continue until the student graduates.
- In Illinois, students can remain in school up until their 22<sup>nd</sup> birthday if this is part of the IEP.

### Why is Transition Planning Important?

Students with disabilities may:

- Be at increased risk for high school-drop out
  - Be less likely to attend a 4 -year college
  - Have lower employment rates in adult hood
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- Transition planning helps prepare young adults for life after high school and create a realistic plan that will allow youth to be successful in the future.
  - As well, transition planning helps students understand what skills to develop in order to reach these transition goals.
  - It is never too early to start planning.



### **To whom should I speak to about Transition Planning?**

It is important for you to speak with your school about the transition plan.

The transition team should include the student, family, teachers, and other school staff as well as staff from other community agencies.

It is important to speak with your medical team about your transition plan so that they can also help guide you in planning for your future.

### **Additional Resources**

#### **Family Resource Center on Disability**

312- 939-3513

<http://www.frcd.org>

#### **Illinois State Board of Education**

866-262-6663

[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)

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