

## 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
- 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/contact>
- **Illinois State Board of Education**  
312-814-2220  
[www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net)
- **Illinois State Board of Education: Special Education Compliance Division**  
Springfield: 217-782-5590  
Chicago: 312-814-5560

*The information included in this document is for informational purposes only and is not intended to substitute in any way for medical education, training, treatment, advice, or diagnosis by a healthcare professional. A qualified healthcare professional should always be consulted before making any healthcare-related decision.*