

What is transition?

- Transition for students with disabilities refers to preparing students for movement from high school to the adult world.
- Transition planning helps students and parents obtain knowledge and skills to plan for the future and to make effective use of personal and public resources to achieve desired outcomes.

Why transition planning?

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Amendments of 2004 (IDEA '04) states that the purpose of the legislation is to ensure that all children with disabilities are afforded a free appropriate public education (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services designed to meet unique needs and prepare students for post-secondary success.
- Students, parents, educators, and community service providers must work together via Transition/ARD meeting to support students in planning for and reaching desired adult goals.

Need more information?

- Texas Education Agency (TEA)
Secondary Transition Guidance
<http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=2147496883>
- Texas Project FIRST <http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/>
- Partners Resource Network (TEAM Project)
<http://www.partnerstx.org/> 713-524-2147
- The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD
(Formerly MHMRA)
<http://mhmrharris.org/> 713-970-7000
- The ARC of Greater Houston
<http://www.aogh.org/> 713-957-1600
- Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov 1-800-772-1213
- Texas Workforce Commission
<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/> 1-800-628-5115
- Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL)
<http://www.hcil.cc/> 713-974-4621
- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
<http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/> 1-800-262-0334
- Texas School for the Deaf
<http://www.tsd.state.tx.us/> 512-462-5353
- Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (TDPRS)
<http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/> 1-800-252-5400
- Texana
www.texanacenter.com 713-239-1300

Transition Planning Process



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MISSION

YES Prep Public Schools will increase the number of students from underserved communities who graduate from college prepared to lead.

Additionally, students with special needs at YES Prep have access to, are prepared for, and take advantage of rigorous postsecondary opportunities that prepare them to become leaders in their communities.

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What is the goal of transition planning?

To assist students with disabilities as they prepare to leave school after graduation and move to:

- Post secondary education
- Vocational training
- Integrated employment (including supported employment)
- Continuing and adult education
- Adult services
- Independent living
- Community participation

What is informal transition and when does it occur?

Informal transition planning begins on or before a student with disability begins school. All stakeholders should consider effective strategies to facilitate transition planning. Families and schools work as partners to develop self-advocacy skills by expecting the student to:

- Know their basic human rights
- Know how to advocate for themselves
- Take responsibility for their life
- Ask for help or support appropriately
- Develop specific skills
- Gain employment skills

What is formal transition planning and when does it occur?

Prior to age 14 or younger as decided by the ARD Committee:

- Provide transition information to students and parents
- Identify student preferences and interests
- Identify student service needs
- Determine course of study and graduation options
- Develop anticipated graduation plan and timeline for completion; update annually
- Include statement of transition service needs in the Individual Education Plan (IEP); update annually
- Develop Individual Transition Plan (ITP) based on student's preferences, interests, and post-secondary expectations; update annually
- Identify needed transition services as a coordinated set of activities
- Identify interagency responsibilities or needed linkages
- Integrate needed transition services in the IEP; update annually
- Review graduation plan
- Develop post secondary goals based on age appropriate transition assessment

What is the difference between entitlement and an eligibility system?

- Prior to age 21, transition is the process of moving from entitlement services to eligibility services.
- In Texas, a student with a disability who is receiving special education services is entitled to educational services through age 21 or has met the requirements for a high school diploma.
- Post high school, students who have exited the school system must meet eligibility criteria and funding availability to receive services from adult agencies.
- Each agency will have distinct eligibility criteria. It is the parent and/or adult student that have the responsibility to initiate these services.
- **Families who are involved in transition planning early will have more time to create opportunities for their young adult to achieve desired goals.**