

Transition and the Law

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities, provided to the student by the school and sometimes other agencies, including Texas Workforce Commission and LifePath, to promote a successful transition from high school to postsecondary education or employment, and independent living. Transition services must be based on the student's **strengths**, as well as their preferences and interests. Transition assessment will provide information to create transition goals that focus on and build upon what the student **can** do – not focus on what the student **can't** do.

Activities developed as part of transition services must be designed to be within a “**results-oriented**” process to include activities designed to produce success for the individual. The process must focus on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student to facilitate movement from school to post-school activities.

In Texas, the ARD committee must include transition planning in the first IEP that will be in effect when the child turns 14 years of age. Student and parent involvement are critical to ensure that the planning reflects student values, interests and preferences.

The student's courses of study including course selection should be meaningful to the student's future plans and motivate the student to complete his/her education.

The ARD committee is charged with developing:

- Age-appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills. Transition assessments may include interest inventories, person-centered assessments and computerized assessments such as *PISD staff needs to provide information here*.
- A statement of the transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the student in reaching those goals.
 - The statement of transition services should relate directly to the student's postsecondary goals.
- Annual transition goals providing a measurement of the student's progress in a specific skill or behavior related to his/her transition service needs. An annual goal and short-term objectives should be included in the IEP to address each postsecondary goal.

Transition planning includes the requirement to notify the student, at least one year in advance, of rights that will transfer to the student upon reaching the age of majority (18). Turning 18 is an important step in a student's life; he/she is considered as an adult and must make decisions including those concerning education, the right to vote and register for the Selective Service. Parents and students should fully understand some of the options available to them at this point. (See [website](#) for more information about guardianship and alternatives)

To help with the transition from graduation to adulthood schools are required to provide a “Summary of Performance” to students graduating with a regular diploma or to exceeding the age of services (21 as of September 1). The summary includes information the student's academic achievement and functional performance and includes recommendations on how to assist the student in meeting postsecondary goals.

Helpful websites:

The National Parent Center on Transition and Employment provides information on Middle and High school planning, post-secondary education, employment, benefit programs, and support, independent and community living, Laws and Rights, Health and Transition and Assistive Technology

[Link to National Parent Center on Transition and Employment](#)

Great Schools.org provides information on school quality, supporting advocacy and parenting information
[Link to Great Schools.org](#)

Texas Youth 2 Adult provides information specific to the individual diagnosis and age of the student
[Link to Texas Youth 2 Adult](#)

Next Steps provides a multimedia reference tool about transition IEP process
[Link to Next Steps](#)

I'm Determined focuses on providing direct instruction models and opportunities to practice skills associated with self-determination and transition
[Link to I'm Determined](#)