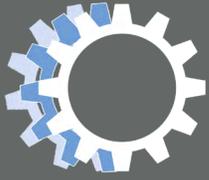


PREPARING FOR THE IEP MEETING: FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

As a parent or guardian you have valuable perspectives and insights to offer when discussing transition topics during your child's IEP meeting. This planning sheet will help you know what to expect and how you can contribute.

What Should I Know About a Transition IEP Meeting?

- After your son or daughter turns 14, IEP meetings will begin to focus on his or her goals for after high school in the areas of education/training, employment, and independent living.
- IEP team members include you, your son or daughter, their special education teacher, their general education teachers, a school administrator, and representatives from adult disability service agencies. Other team members might include a speech, occupational, or physical therapist, and/or guidance counselor. You or your child can invite anyone important to you or who you feel can provide relevant information related to post-school goals.
- During the meeting, the team will identify goals your child will work on during the year to make progress towards his or her future goals.
- Some of those goals might be addressed at home.
- Each team member will have individual responsibilities and things they will contribute to the process.
- Here are some terms you might hear related to transition components of the IEP:
 - **Postsecondary Goals**—These are your child's desired post-school outcomes. Your child must have a postsecondary goal in education/training and employment. Many students will also have an independent living goal.
 - **Transition Services**—These are activities to help your son or daughter gain experiences and skills to help them meet their postsecondary goals (for example, a student whose goal is part-time employment at Chick-fil-A may participate in a job shadowing experience at a local Chick-fil-A).
 - **Measurable Annual Goals**—Annual goals state what the team thinks your child can accomplish over a 12-month period. At least one annual goal must be related to your child's postsecondary goals.
 - **Course of Study**—A list of all the classes your child is taking over their entire high school career.



Transition

T E N N E S S E E

How Can I Help?

- Provide input on your child's strengths and areas of need.
- Help the team determine which planning areas are the most important to focus on.
- Ensure all goals are aligned with your child's preferences and interests.
- Be ready to explain what your child's skills and behaviors are like at home.
- Help identify services and annual goals your child can work on at home to meet his or her postsecondary goals.
- Advocate for your child if you disagree with another team member.
- Use your personal connections to identify opportunities for work experiences and other learning opportunities in the community.
- Ask questions if you do not understand something.