

Transition Planning at 17

- Include student in IEP meetings.
- Include student's SSA (Service and Support Administrator from the Board of DD) in IEP meeting if eligible for services, and with parent permission.
- Discuss eligibility for Board of DD services, if applicable. (How is eligibility determined? What services can the Board of DD provide?)
Those students who were previously eligible for Board services will need to requalify for eligibility for adult services at 16.
- The IEP team should complete a Future Transition Planning Survey and complete Age Appropriate Transition Assessments to provide information on the student's preferences, interests, needs and skills relating to further education and training, competitive employment, and independent living (if necessary).
- Discuss the Postsecondary Transition section (4 & 5) of the student's IEP. These sections of the IEP should drive the annual goals of the IEP.
- Discuss future program options and expected graduation date.
- Begin discussing future supports available for employment. Consider the appropriate time to invite a counselor from Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) to explain their services and how they support students who want to work.
- Discuss your student's Rights at the Age of Majority. (Prior to turning 18.)
- If not already done, consider obtaining a state ID card from the DMV if your student will not be pursuing a driver's license.
 - **For more information and definitions of terms above, please continue on to the next page.**

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- Why should my student attend the IEP meeting at 14 and after?

Students MUST be *invited* to the IEP meeting beginning with the IEP during which he/she turns 14. This is when transition planning for his/her future begins to take place, and students have both the right and responsibility to participate in this planning. The student should receive his/her own invitation and/or the signature on the IEP form can serve as proof of being invited.
- Why should we invite the student's SSA?

If your son/daughter has an SSA (Services and Supports Administrator) through the Board of DD, this person can become an invaluable link to support transition planning for students still in school and beyond into adulthood. An SSA can help your student/family link to needed agencies and funding sources.
- What is a Future Transition Planning Survey?

An informal survey designed to identify the student's preferences, interests, needs and strengths. This survey will help the team plan for the student's future employment, education & training, and possible independent living needs. Inventory provided by the student's teacher.
- What is a Transition Statement?

A statement that is required on the IEP at age 14 and 15. This statement focuses on the student's needs related to the transition to and through the first years of high school. It will also include the *course(s) of study* the student will be taking to reach future post-school goals.
- What are my student's future program options?

Besides the special education classes provided within each school district, Mercer County provides additional programs that may assist in meeting your student's future educational, employment and independent living needs if needed. Examples include:

 - Tri-Star Career Compact / Vantage (Parkway)
 - MCESC Vocational Skills Center
 - MCESC Transition Center
 - CA Discovering Abilities Adult Services Programs
 - OOD/BVR
- Who is the Board of DD?

The Mercer County Board of Developmental Disabilities (Board of DD) is a county-wide program for eligible individuals with disabilities that provides services including:

 - Providing SSA's (Services and Supports Administrators) to assist with information on services and funding sources available to the student/family; (Waivers, Family Resources, Social Security, Medicaid)
 - Advocating for the student/family; (IEP meetings, community agencies, medical professionals)
 - Lifelong follow along supports for the student/family

*Testing for eligibility determination is necessary (COEDI: Childhood Ohio Eligibility Determination Instrument). For more information, please contact:

Beth Gehret, Service and Support Administration (SSA) Director, 419-586-2369 ext. 220

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➤ Who is OOD/ Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR)?

BVR is an agency (under *Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities – OOD*) whose end goal is employment. BVR services are available to youth 14-22 who have a disability that impacts work. The time to refer a student for BVR services is when the IEP team begins to identify transition or other post-secondary services that target *competitive employment* (community based employment at or above minimum wage) as an outcome for a student with a disability.

*A referral can be initiated by the school, family member, other educational or community resource or by the student. More information can be found at <http://www.ood.ohio.gov>

➤ When is the “right time” to refer to BVR?

BVR services are available to youth 14-22 who have a disability that impacts work. The time to refer a student for BVR services is when the IEP team begins to identify transition or other post-secondary services that target *competitive employment (community based employment at or above minimum wage)* as an outcome for a student with a disability.

- Students considering Tri-Star may want to be referred in their sophomore year as they begin to make plans toward future career goals.
- A general “rule of thumb” is to refer students for BVR services 2 years prior to exiting school age services. If a student is not yet ready for *competitive employment* and requires more continued training, a referral to BVR should not yet be made.
- Other work options, such as an *enclave*, offer supervised and structured work experience and training within a community business for those individuals who are not yet ready for competitive employment. An *enclave* provides a small group of individuals with the close supervision needed for success at work. BVR does NOT fund individuals working in enclaves. Those working in *enclaves* are supported through *waiver* programs available through the *Board of DD*.

➤ What is the Age of Majority?

The Age of Majority is the transfer of all of the rights and responsibilities of adulthood to the student when he/she turns 18. This includes the right to vote, register for the armed services, and be capable of and responsible for handling his/her own affairs and any legal obligations created by his/her actions.

For more information, contact your County Board SSA: 419-586-2369

<http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/faq-guardianship>

• What is Guardianship?

Guardianship gives the parent(s) the right to make decisions for the young adult concerning medical or legal issues. It DOES NOT limit the young adult’s ability to vote, date/marry. Contact an attorney to begin the paperwork if you choose to pursue guardianship.

• What is Power of Attorney?

Power of Attorney is like a contract between you and your young adult giving you their permission to help them make decisions. Your young adult will indicate which areas you may help with and how much help he/she may need. Power of Attorney can be revoked by the young adult at any time. Contact an attorney to have this document drawn up.

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- What is a Special Needs Trust?

This trust allows your young adult to have money available to them as they age, while not endangering their eligibility for Social Security or Medicaid benefits. Contact an attorney to arrange such a trust as it is very specific to each family situation.

- Is there help for the student in getting a driver's license?

Capabilities Driving School has an instructor with a specialized certification for teaching people with disabilities how to drive. Call 419-394-0003 or go to <http://capabilitiesinc.biz/driving.php>

- Why a State ID Card and how do I get one?

A State of Ohio ID Card is recommended for your student if they will not have a driver's license. It provides identifying information that will be needed for employment and many service agencies. State ID Cards are available at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles BMV, 320 Portland St. Celina, OH. 419-586-7144. You will need to take a certified birth certificate, social security card and proof of address. There is a nominal fee.