

Where to Find More Information

The DoDEA Parent's Guide to Special Education includes a list of Internet resources on this topic and many others. The guide can be downloaded at the Department of Defense Education Agency (DoDEA) Special Education Home Page. http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm

Sites Especially for Military Families

For more information about Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP), visit www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/efm and click on "EFMP," speak to a Special Needs Coordinator at your local military treatment facility, or visit one of the service-specific Web sites listed in the "For Information and Assistance" section.

Military OneSource - A Master's-degree consultant is available to provide help with concerns related to children with special needs 24 hours a day. Translation services are available in most languages. Call 1-800-655-4545 (in US and overseas). <http://www.militaryonesource.com>

Systematic Training for Military Parents (STOMP) provides information, training, and assistance to military families who have children with disabilities. <http://www.stompproject.org>

Other Important Sites

Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers - Locator to find state parent training and information centers and links to scientifically-based research, national information centers, and IDEA. <http://www.taalliance.org>

National Dissemination Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities - Clearinghouse of information about special education and specific disabilities, summaries of key topics and points of contact in each state. <http://www.nichcy.org>

Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC) - <http://www.peatc.org>

IDEA Partnerships

Portal to resources related to IDEA, the law, national technical assistance providers, state/ local organizations and agencies, and the U.S. Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). <http://www.ideapartnership.org>

U.S. Department of Education - information on special education, parent involvement, education research, laws and regulations. <http://www.ed.gov>

Non-DoD informational references are being provided as required by IDEA but their inclusion in this material does not constitute any endorsement by DoDEA.

DoDEA Special Education Series

The complete series of brochures and other resources for parents of students with disabilities are available on the DoDEA special education website at http://dodea.edu/instruction/curriculum/special_ed/index.htm.

Special Education Brochures

1. Pre-referral Interventions: Steps Before a Special Education Referral/Assessment
2. Moving: Things to Remember When Relocating
3. Communicating Effectively: Building a Strong Partnership
4. Individualized Education Program (IEP): Your Role in the Process
5. Related Services: Understanding the Purpose of these Services
6. Early Intervention Services: Transitioning to Preschool Services for Children with Disabilities
7. Transition: Planning for Life After High School
8. Parent Rights and Responsibilities: Insights into Your Rights and Responsibilities
9. Resolving Disputes: Your Role in Reaching Resolutions
10. Assistive Technology: Assessment, Devices, and Available Services



Transition Planning for Life After High School

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Education Directorate/Student Services Branch
4040 North Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203-1635

dodea

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Transition Planning for Life After High School

Transition Planning

Transition planning for individuals with disabilities is designed to ensure they find meaningful employment and enjoy a satisfying quality of life in adulthood. Formal transition planning may begin when your child turns 14. The Case Study Committee (CSC), including you and your child, will consider your child's strengths, interests and preferences for the future, and use this information to develop a transition plan that identifies your child's transition goals and service needs. The transition plan should determine a course of study and whether that course of study will lead your child where he or she wants to go upon graduation.

Transition Assessments

As part of the transition planning process, DoDEA will offer transition assessments for students receiving special education services to help determine their interests, preferences, abilities and potential. These assessments usually consist of three major components:

- work sampling,
- standardized tests, and
- behavioral observation.

Secondary Transition

Secondary transition refers to a coordinated set of activities and services designed to prepare your child to move successfully from high school to the adult world. The specific activities and services in your child's transition plan are based on his or her needs, skills, preferences and interests as determined by the transition assessments and the CSC. In developing long-term goals and objectives for your child, transition service areas to be considered include:



- Post-Secondary Education
- Vocational Training
- Integrated Employment (including supported employment)
- Adult Services
- Community Activities
- Independent Living

Transition meetings with the CSC can provide information about eligibility requirements and the availability of programs and services for your child in the area where you live.

Age of Majority

When your child reaches the age of majority (generally 18 years old), your child becomes responsible for his or her educational program. The CSC will discuss this transfer of rights at least one year before your child reaches the age of majority. The rights that transfer to your child include the right to:

- receive notice of and attend IEP meetings
- consent for reevaluation
- consent to change in placement
- request mediation or a due process hearing to resolve a dispute about evaluation, identification, eligibility, IEP, placement or other aspects of the free appropriate public education (FAPE)

Parents of young adults with a disability continue to play a role in the transition process from school to work and community life. As a parent, your guidance and support will help your young adult gain the skills, confidence and positive attitudes needed to participate as fully as possible as a productive member of the community. In certain cases, a young adult with a disability who has reached the age of majority may not have the ability to provide informed consent; in this case parents would retain responsibility.

Additional Information

National Collaborative on Workforce and Disability (NCWD) offers information specifically related to youth resources.

<http://www.ncwd-youth.info>

NEXT STEPS Guide to Future Planning is a student-centered planning guide developed by the Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC).

http://www.peatc.org/NEXT_STEPS/rsahome.htm

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) is a federally funded information center that provides resources, forums and research-based practices for transition planning.

<http://www.ncset.org>

National Clearinghouse on Postsecondary Education for Individuals with Disabilities offers information about college and other educational planning and opportunities after high school.

<http://www.heath.gwu.edu>

ThinkCollege.net provides information for students with intellectual disabilities on opportunities for a post secondary education.

www.thinkcollege.net