



EDUCATION COUNSELING

NON-COLLEGE TRACK

After high school checklist for those pursuing employment, job training, independent living, or day programs, thoughtful planning makes a difference.

- 1 TRANSITION PLAN (AGE 16+)**
 - Ensure that your school conducts a comprehensive transition evaluation.
 - Confirm the IEP includes a transition plan with goals for employment, daily living, and community participation.
 - Ensure school provides job readiness, life skills training, and community-based instruction.
 - A high school counselor or the IEP team can offer advice on paths to consider after graduation such as trade/vocational schools, internships, gap year, military and work.
- 2 KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
 - **Your child may be entitled to receive special education until age 26 in Michigan.** Do not accept a high school diploma before you are sure your child doesn't require additional special education or related services.
- 3 GOVERNMENT BENEFITS**
 - Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, and/or Medicaid Waiver programs.
 - Connect with your local Developmental Disabilities Services Office for long-term supports.
- 4 ADULT SERVICES & PROGRAMS**
 - Research and apply to day habilitation programs, vocational services, or supported employment options.
 - Coordinate with local agencies (e.g., VR - Vocational Rehabilitation) for job coaching or training opportunities.
- 5 LIFE SKILLS & TRANSPORTATION**
 - Build independence with daily routines: cooking, budgeting, time management.
 - Arrange transportation training or access to paratransit/public transit if needed.
- 6 EMOTIONAL & SOCIAL WELLBEING**
 - Support friendships and structured social opportunities.
 - Encourage mental health check-ins and continued access to therapy or counseling.
- 7 ONGOING ADVOCACY & RECORDS**
 - Keep copies of all IEPs, evaluations, benefit documents, and medical records.
 - Continue attending planning meetings and advocating for services with adult providers.
- 8 POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT**
 - A good experience at work can be a big self-esteem booster. It can also help get a better sense of strengths and interests.
- 9 ONGOING SUPPORT**
 - Self-advocacy is important in the workplace. Disclosing a disability at work might help you get accommodations you need to get the job done.
 - Be flexible and willing to adjust plans and strategies as needs evolve.
- 10 LEGAL & FINANCIAL PLANNING**
 - Consider establishing a special needs trust or ABLE account.
 - Open a bank account for direct deposit paychecks.
- 11 LEGAL DOCUMENTS FOR AGE 18+**
 - Talk to your attorney about Power of Attorneys and HIPAA forms.
 - Ask us about our Adulting Essentials Toolkit with start-up legal documents for young adults.

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