



EDUCATION COUNSELING HIGH SCHOOL

High school is a significant step.
We hope this checklist helps you feel more prepared.

- 1 EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENTS**
 - Ensure that your school conducts a comprehensive transition evaluation.
 - Review and update your child's IEP annually with appropriate goals.
 - Make sure your child's Present Levels of Performance (PLOP) reflect current academic and functional abilities.
 - Ensure transition planning begins by age 14 and includes input from your child.
- 2 TRANSITION PLANNING**
 - Work with IEP team to create goals for education, employment, and independent living.
 - Explore community-based programs, vocational training, and internships that align with your child's interests.
 - Connect with Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) office for support.
- 3 STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & SELF-ADVOCACY**
 - Encourage your child to participate in IEP meetings, share their goals, and express what helps them succeed.
 - Teach self-advocacy skills, including how to request accommodations or talk to teachers about their needs.
 - Practice decision-making about academics, social situations, time management and healthcare.
- 4 ACADEMIC SUPPORTS & ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Ensure accommodations and modifications are appropriate for high school coursework (extended time, note-taking support, technology tools).
 - Monitor how services are delivered and request changes if needed.
 - Confirm assistive technology is updated and being used consistently.
- 5 TRACKING PROGRESS**
 - Monitor IEP goals and request updated evaluations if performance changes or services seem ineffective.
 - Stay informed about your child's progress and credit accumulation for graduation.
 - Set up regular check-ins with case managers or special education staff.
- 6 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
 - Encourage your child to join clubs, extracurriculars, or leadership opportunities that build confidence and social skills.
 - Explore community-based instruction or off-campus work-based learning, if available.
- 7 HEALTH, SAFETY & INDEPENDENCE**
 - Make sure school has current health and medication information and emergency plans.
 - Support independent living skills: banking, transportation, cooking, personal care.
 - Discuss adult medical care and transition from pediatric providers, if needed.
- 8 GRADUATION PLANNING**
 - Understand graduation pathways and how they apply to your child's IEP. Explore post-high school options: college, community college (with disability services), trade school, supported employment, or adult day programs.
- 9 KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**
 - **Your child may be entitled to receive special education until age 26 in Michigan.** Do not accept a diploma before you are sure your child doesn't require additional special education or related services.
 - If your child will continue receiving services beyond age 18, clarify the plan with the school team.
- 10 LEGAL & ADULT SERVICES**
 - Apply for SSI, Medicaid, or Medicaid waiver programs if your child may qualify.
 - Discuss legal decision-making options before your child turns 18: power of attorney, supported decision-making, guardianship, etc. Ask about our Adulting Essential ToolKit.

TIP for #4,7,8 High Schools should be helping with these topics years leading up to transition to College.

Schluter & Hughes
LAW FIRM PLLC

📞 248.692.7392 🌐 www.schluterhugheslaw.com ✉ info@schluterhugheslaw.com
📍 43902 Woodward Avenue, Suite 210, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302