

What Are Transition Services?

Transition services are intended to help youth with disabilities make the transition from high school to adulthood. Transition services should prepare your child for further education, employment, and independent living.

What Does IDEA Say?

[IDEA, Sec. 300.320\(b\)](#) states that each child's individualized education program (IEP) must contain transition services "Beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team [In Texas, the IEP Team is called the Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee], and updated annually, thereafter, the IEP must include—

- (1) Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and
- (2) The transition services (including courses of study) needed to assist the child in reaching those goals."

Essentials of a Transition Plan

Age-Appropriate Transition Assessments

Age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and, where appropriate, independent living skills.

Postsecondary Goals

Appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based on age-appropriate transition assessments and your child's strengths, preferences, and interests.

Transition Services

The transition services (including courses of study or the series of classes assigned to assist the student with reaching their postsecondary goals) should include the areas of:

- Instruction
- Related services
- Community experiences
- The development of employment and daily living skills

The transition plan is added to the IEP to explicitly focus on postsecondary outcomes. It does not replace the other components of your child's IEP!





Resources for Families

Need more information on IDEA, IEPs, or special education? Scan the QR code to access our online resources.



Partners Resource Network

 Offices in Lubbock, Houston, Austin, El Paso, and Dallas/Fort Worth

 1.800.866.4726

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How Does the ARD Committee Design Transition Services?

The Admission, Review, and Dismissal (ARD) committee must use “a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child’s movement from school to post-school activities” [IDEA, Sec. 300.43\(a\)](#). Post-school activities that might be addressed by transition services may include:

- Postsecondary education
- Vocational education
- Integrated employment (including supported employment)
- Adult services
- Independent living
- Community participation ([IDEA, Sec. 300.43\(a\)\(1\)](#))

When Should Transition Planning Begin?

IDEA requires transition services to be in effect when the child turns 16. In Texas, state law requires the ARD committee to consider transition services no later than age 14. ([TAC 89.1055\(h\)](#))

Tips for Success

- Start with the end in mind by clearly defining what you and your child want for their future.
- Ensure transition planning is an ongoing process, not something that occurs only during the annual ARD meeting.
- Review and update age-appropriate transition assessments yearly to identify your child’s needs and interests.
- When developing your child’s present levels of academic achievement and functional performance (PLAAFP) statement and measurable annual goals, focus on both academic and functional skills necessary for employment.
- Collaborate with community agencies and transition services to develop a coordinated transition plan that allows your child to build skills and explore post-school opportunities.
- Invite partners with knowledge and expertise of your child’s needs or available transition services to join the ARD committee to help develop a transition plan.



The contents of this publication were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H328M200041, #H328M200042, #H328M200043, #H328M200044. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.