



Parent Guide to Transition Planning & Guide to IEP Planning Process



Department of Exceptional Children

The Transition Plan: What the Law Says

Tennessee and federal law says that all students who receive special education services must have transition planning included in their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) beginning at age 14 (or younger if appropriate). The IEP must list the student's transition needs and a plan for "instruction and services" to meet those needs. The IEP / Transition Plan must be updated once a year. Here's what the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) says about transition planning:

Each child with a disability must have included in their IEP:

- Beginning at age 14 (or younger if appropriate), and updated annually a statement of the student's transition service needs that includes the child's courses of study (such as taking part in advanced placement courses, a vocational education program, etc)
- Beginning at age 16 (or younger if appropriate) a statement of needed transition services for the child, including, when appropriate, a statement of the interagency responsibilities or any needed linkages
- Beginning at least 1 year before the child reaches age 18 a statement that the child has been informed of his or her rights under IDEA, if any, that will transfer to the child on reaching age 18

IDEA 2004 at Section 602(34) defines transition services as a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

- Is designed to be within 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, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation)
- Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation

How Can Parents Prepare their Child for the Transition Process?

Listen to Your Child's Ideas, Goals and Dreams

- Focus on their interests and abilities rather than disabilities. Encourage and help them explore their dreams and ideas, even if yours are different.

Help Your Child Learn the Skills that He or She Will Need as an Adult

- Find ways for your child to be independent from a young age. Have them practice self-help skills, and give him or her tasks around the house.
- Allow them to make choices and learn to make wise decisions.
- Teach them to be an advocate for themselves.
- Assist them in developing and practicing social and communication skills needed for work, school, recreation, and friendships.
- Encourage them to become part of the community. Look into after-school and recreational activities, chances to volunteer, and job options.
- Work on IEP goals and objectives at home.

Make the Most of the IEP Process

- Begin planning early — at least by age 14.
- Encourage your child to be a part of the planning process as much as possible. Make sure he or she is part of team meetings and has the opportunity to provide input. Ask your child's teacher about IEP planning tools that assess interests, aptitudes, learning styles, etc. and provides opportunities for career exploration.

Be Prepared for IEP Meetings

- You can bring others to your child's IEP meeting (relative, friend, advocate, service provider). They can give moral support, help gather and share information and viewpoints, and even take notes. Talk with the special education supervisor or your child's teacher about who you would like to invite.
- Write down questions and ideas you have, both before and during the meeting. Have a person explain anything that is not clear to you. Get answers to all your questions before the meeting ends. Or get a date when someone will write back to you.
- Think about the goals and objectives in the IEP / transition plan. Will they prepare your child for adult life, such as living and working in the community? Do not feel pressured to make decisions on the spot.
- Before you leave the meeting, make sure you know what will happen next, such as when you will get the finalized IEP and who the contact person is.

The Role of the Parent

During Your child's transition years, you might have to play many roles, including these:

Become an Active IEP Team Member

At IEP time you will receive a notice of your child's IEP meeting. Below are things you should do before and during the IEP meeting:

- Attend all IEP meetings
- Think about questions to ask the teachers and school staff
- Ask about diploma options
- Review the IEP/Transition checklist before the IEP meeting. Check off during the IEP meeting
- Read and know what the Law says about transition
- Encourage your child to attend and participate in the IEP meeting
- Ask questions if you do not understand any part of the IEP meeting

Share What You Know About Your Child

You can share important information about your child's personal traits, interests, likes and dislikes. Be clear about your child's abilities at IEP meetings and transition planning meetings.

Be a Role Model

Let your child know that he or she can become as independent as possible. Give your child chores around the home, and focus on good grooming, physical fitness, and good social and communication skills.

Be a Case Manager

You will need to make sure that the goals of the transition plan are fully met. This can be hard if your child's need for service continues after his or her school years. It's likely you will have to work with many different people and agencies to get the adult services and supports your son or daughter needs

Encourage Job and Career Exploration at School and at Home

You and your child's teachers need to talk with the student about the many career choices, and the rewards of work. Talk to your son or daughter about your own job and other jobs and careers, and have him or her explore hobbies which use skills and tools related to his or her job interests. Find out about School-to-Career, summer jobs, and other programs in your school and community.

Work for More and Better Supports

You and Your child must keep working with service providers, employers, and policy makers to create more choices for students with special needs.

Let Your Son or Daughter Take Risks

You might have mixed feelings about your son or daughter becoming more independent. You might know that letting go is the best thing, but it can be hard to let your student takes the risks that go with independence. It helps to stay focused on your child's abilities.

Be a Financial Planner

Often when young people with disabilities work or get money from others, this can change their cash payments from programs like SSI. Talk to professionals about how your son or daughter's job, savings, and things like trusts and inheritance might affect this, and make plans for it.

Become Involved in Your Child's School

One of the most important things a parent can do is get to know the school staff, both, the regular and special education staff. Find out about all school services, including regular education and after-school activities (such as sports and clubs). Get to know the people involved in the activities that interest your child. Join the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO/PTA), the Special Education Local Advisory Committee (LAC), or the School Improvement Team. Share ideas with other parents about creating and getting access to inclusive programs and activities.

Start Planning Now for Adult Services and Supports

Learn about the different programs and services that are available for your child now and when he or she gets older which will help them be independent and be part of the community? Figure out what supports your child now gets that will need to be continued in the future. Find out what agencies can provide these supports. Invite any agencies who might offer transition or adult services to your child

to the IEP/Transition planning meeting. Begin financial planning for your child's adult life. At age 17, look into applying for SSI (Supplemental Security Income). Find out about Ticket to Work plans and other Social Security programs. Find out about how adult services will be paid for. Think about estate planning and guardianship issues.

Keep Good Records

Before the student leaves school, get copies of all high school transcripts, evaluations, tests, and reports. Write down notes on each meeting and phone conversation, with the name of agency, contact person and date. Keep a copy of all letters between you and agencies. Keep everything organized in file folders or three-ring notebooks. Keep records of any on-the-job training reports or other work experiences the student has had. Get letters of recommendation from the employer, teachers, or job coaches.

Become an Advocate

Get to know the laws covering education and disability issues (ADA, IDEA, Rehabilitation Act). Also get to know your decision-makers and law-makers.

Transition Checklist

Use this checklist to see whether or not your child's IEP meets the requirements of IDEA (the Federal law covering education for students with disabilities) and Tennessee Special Education Regulations:

- Did your child take part in developing the Transition Plan and IEP? If not were steps taken to make sure your child's interests and needs were considered in the plan?
- Are the annual goals and objectives in the IEP based on your child's needs?
- Were staff members of agencies which might be providing or paying for transition services invited to the IEP/Transition meeting? If the invited agencies did not send any staff members, did the team take other steps to make sure those or the agencies took part?
- Does the IEP/Transition include your child's long range goals in employment, post secondary education and training independent living, and community participation
- Is the course of study in the IEP what your child needs to reach the long-range goals?
- Are the annual goals and objectives designed to help your child reach the long range goals?
- If there are no annual goals and objectives related to the long-range goals this year, is the reason written in the IEP?
- Did the team include in the IEP: instruction, related services, community experiences, the creation of employment and other post-school, adult living objectives and, when appropriate: acquiring daily living skills, functional vocational evaluation
- Were assessments begun at age 14? Are assessments reviewed once a year and are the results used in development of transition goals?
- Was the need for assistive technology in transition considered?
- Did the IEP team meet again if the responsibilities of other agencies identified in the IEP were not met?
- For students turning 17, did the team talk about the transfer of rights?
- Did the school arrange for an interpreter if you do not speak English?

Transition Plan Timeline

You and your child may wish to think about many of the items below when you prepare transition plans with your IEP team. Not all of them may apply to your child, and there may be other areas important to you that are not listed here.

4 to 5 years before exiting high school

School and Work

- Know how you learn best and what accommodations you need to do well in school and at work.
- Explore your job and career interests and skills. Complete interest and career inventories, and think about other schooling or training you would need.
- Look into college or continuing education schools or programs, and their admission requirements.
- Start financial planning (financial aid for college or continuing education).
- Save samples of your best school work and achievements.
- Explore opportunities to volunteer in the community.
- Take part in informational interviews or job shadowing experiences.

Community Living

- Think about where and how you would like to live, and supports you would need to do this.
- Begin learning skills you'll need for independent living.
- Look into assistive technology that can make it easier to have a job and be part of your community
- Become more involved in your community and make new friends.
- Look into and learn to use public transportation (like buses)
- Look into driver's education when the time is right for you.
- Think about the skills you'll need for taking care of your money (budgeting, savings, checking account)
- Get a state identification card and learn when and how to give out personal information.
- Learn and practice personal care.

Supports

- Determine your need for income support and health care support like SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Independent Living Services and Medicaid.
- Work with your parents on setting up trusts, if needed.
- Practice how to communicate best with others at work, at school, with friends, and in the community.
- Make plans to be sure you will still have the assistive technology you need after you leave high school.

Being Your Own Advocate

- Learn to make clear to others your interests, wishes, and needs.
- Be able to explain your abilities and disabilities and any accommodations you might need.
- Learn and practice how to make informed decisions.

2 to 3 years before exiting high school

School and Work

- Match career interests and skills with vocational (job-related) courses and work experiences in the community.
- Seek summer employment (intern in your career interest area).
- Begin a resume and make changes to it as needed.
- Learn more about colleges and other adult education schools and programs, and the support services they offer. Make plans for accommodations to take college entrance exams and complete applications. Find out what options are available for financial aid and scholarships.
- Take part in job shadowing experiences that are offered.
- Complete an application with the state's Division of Rehabilitation Services to see if you are eligible for services from them.

Community Living

- Learn about community supports offered by community and state agencies.
- Invite adult service providers, friends, and others to the IEP / Transition meeting.
- Learn independent living skills, such as budgeting, shopping, cooking, and housekeeping.
- Determine what personal assistant services you need, and how to manage these services.
- Choose health care providers and learn about sexuality and family planning.
- Visit a variety of adult support agencies. Ask questions about services they could provide or could create to meet your needs.

Supports

- Determine your need for income support and health care support like SSI (Supplemental Security Income), Independent Living Services and Medicaid.
- Work with your parents on setting up trusts, if needed.
- Practice how to communicate best with others at work, at school, with friends, and in the community.
- Make plans to be sure you will still have the assistive technology you need after you leave high school.

Being Your Own Advocate

- Look into the legal status of decision-making before you become a legal adult.
- Learn about the laws that affect the rights of people with disabilities, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Rehabilitation Act, etc.

1 year before exiting high school

School and Work

- Choose and get a job, along with any supports needed.
- Learn to be on time for work, appointments and social activities.
- Make plans for how you will get to school, work, etc. (bus, car, friends).
- Get copies of transcripts and other important records from your school before you graduate.
- Write your resume and get letters of recommendation from your teachers before you graduate.
- Choose the college or adult education school or program you plan to go to and make plans with the school for accommodations.

Community Living

- Make detailed plans for living on your own if that's your goal. Keep practicing your independent living skills.
- Learn to take care of your health care needs (make appointments, fill and take prescriptions, etc).
Make a list of people and agencies that can help you if problems come up.

Being Your Own Advocate

- Work on communication skills and self-advocacy skills (standing up for and speaking up for yourself)
- Become involved with advocacy and support groups

Supports

- Make sure you have in place income and health care support programs you might need (SSI, Independent Living Services, Medicaid).
- Build detailed plans of supports you will need with adult service agencies.
- Begin transitioning into your new adult service plan.

Transition Planning in the IEP Process

Transition is about planning for life! It includes planning for academic and non-academic courses and learning experiences, employment and related training opportunities, choices about where to live in the community, and what to do for fun and socialization. One of the goals of transition is to help youth have an understanding of their disability and choices to determine their future. One of the ways transition does this is by connecting your child to teachers and other caring adults, support services, and experiences that build skills and help them reach their goals. Transition is based on family values, priorities, and culture, and is focused on an individual child's strengths, interests, preferences, and needs.

The involvement of youth and families is important so that youth can begin to understand themselves and then identify a team of caring adults who will support their journey. A primary rite of passage for all youth is graduating from high school. The beginning of adulthood is celebrated at this time with an expectation that youth will develop an increasing independence and autonomy and move on to further education, meaningful jobs, finding their own places to live, and their own friends, companions, and life in the community.

These are tough, but exciting times! As a parent, you have survived many stages of your child's life...the terrible twos, beginning school, those wonderful early adolescent years. You have watched your child's development often with pride and sometimes with frustration. Graduation from high school is fast approaching, whether you are ready or not! This is where transition comes in. You have experienced many transitions, or changes, in your child's life. This is probably the most difficult transition that the two of you have experienced thus far. Both you and your child are experiencing some strong feelings about this change. As a parent, your advice is invaluable! You have a perspective that no one else can offer. The teachers will have valuable information to share with you, but you have a perspective that no one else can offer.

In 1990, the Federal Government passed a law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). One component of this law was the issue of transition of students from the world of school to adult life. The new IDEA 2004 law says that schools must address transition by the age of 16, or earlier if the IEP Team deems appropriate. Tennessee Rules require transition planning begin no later than age 14 and include development of measurable post secondary goals and a course of study that will reasonably enable your child to meet his/her goals for after high school.

Transition planning includes these four components:

- **Employment** – What does your child want to do to earn a living and become a productive member of society? How can the schools prepare the student for these goals? Are these goals realistic?
- **Post-secondary education and/or training** – Where will my child acquire the skills to become what he/she wants? How will he/she pay for it? What agencies will assist him/her in meeting this goal?
- **Independent living** – Is my child capable of living independently as an adult? What skills does the student need in order to live as independently as possible?
- **Community participation** – How will my child be involved in the community? Will he/she participate in recreation, church activities, or other organizations? Can he/she get around in the community independently?

The school will discuss transition planning at least at each meeting where the annual IEP is developed. The schools need you to help design these plans for your child. Preparing for the Transition/IEP Meeting: The more you plan ahead, the better prepared you will be to participate in your child's transition/IEP meeting!

Prepare for the Transition/IEP Meeting

- Complete the enclosed student/parent questionnaire with your child.
- Be prepared to share this questionnaire with your child's IEP team.
- Bring suggestions to meetings on what actions you feel are needed to meet or move toward goals in the transition plan.
- Make yourselves familiar with the various roles and functions of team members.
- Become aware of who is responsible for what services.
- Become aware of timeliness for completion of goals.
- Be supportive of your child's transition program.
- Participate in and reinforce the activities in the classroom and community that will prepare and help your child succeed in the adult world.
- Promote appropriate behavior.
- Teach and reinforce good grooming habits.
- Teach money management skills.
- Parents have rights on behalf of their child.
- Parents have a right to have transition services included in their child's IEP while in school.
- The parents' right to transition services transfer to their child at the age of majority (18) unless conservatorship has been legally established.
- Your child is not necessarily entitled to adult services unless he/she meets the criteria to the specific program to which he/she is applying.

Questions You Might Ask at the Transition/IEP Meeting

Questions for Secondary School Personnel:

- What are the career and vocational objectives on my child's IEP?
- Will my child participate in job training, if appropriate?
- On what social skills does the IEP team think my child needs to work?
- I would like my child included in more vocational classes. What classes do you suggest?
- What types of vocational assessments are administered to determine my child's interests and strengths?
- Will my child be taught functional math and reading?
- What functional activities contribute to independence?

Questions for Post-Secondary/Vocational Training or Education Programs:

- What training programs are offered?
- What is the length and cost of the programs?
- What are the entry requirements of the program?
- What support services are available for him/her?
- How and where can financial assistance be obtained?
- What is the application procedure?
- Do you provide assistance in locating a job when my child finishes your program?

Questions for Adult Service Agencies:

Many of the following questions can be answered by visiting Pathfinders Adult Services Resource Guide:
<http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/kennedy/pathfinder>

- What programs and services are offered by your agency?
- What types of disabilities do you serve?
- How do you determine eligibility?
- What is the cost for your program? Can financial assistance be obtained and, if so, whom do I contact?
- Is there a waiting list for your programs? If so, how long?
- Who is the contact person?
- How old does my child have to be to receive your services?
- What is the duration of the services?
- What is my role and level of involvement?
- Do you offer individual and family counseling?

How You Can Help in Developing a Transition Plan

- Involve your child. Your child has specific ideas for his future. Take the time to listen to these ideas.
- Set realistic goals. Take your child's ideas, abilities and interests into consideration. Help him/her set goals that are realistic.
- Encourage independence. Move your child to more independent situations. This includes self-care, independent travel, money management, and decision making.
- Gather information about services that are available to your child upon graduation from high school. Find out about services available through Vocational Rehabilitation, and all other available programs. Place your child's name on any appropriate waiting lists. Gather information about guardianship and conservatorship, when needed.
- Build self-esteem. Have confidence in your child. Expect him/her to achieve with appropriate supports. Your confidence will send a positive message to your child.
- Encourage friendships with peers. Place your child in activities where he/she will spend time with youth that can be friends.
- Provide real experiences. Persons with disabilities need experiences in the community. Provide the opportunity for you child to participate in activities such as recreation, church, and youth organizations.
- Encourage good grooming and good work habits.
- Encourage the child to learn to accept criticism. In order to function as an adult, youth need to accept criticism with grace, whether this criticism is fair or unfair.

Guardianship/Conservatorship and the Age of Majority

Beginning at least one year before the age of majority, the IEP process must include a statement that the student and his or her parents have been informed of his or her rights and that these rights will transfer to the student upon reaching the age of majority. Educational rights that transfer to the student at age 18 are:

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

In the state of Tennessee, a minor reaches the age of majority on his or her 18th birthday. Upon attaining the age of majority, all rights and privileges of an adult are granted to this individual allowing the 18 year old to legally make decisions about personal affairs, including educational matters.

An individual who turns eighteen is no longer legally subject to the authority of his or her parents. This is also true for an individual that has a disability regardless of the level of functioning. In order for someone to make decisions on behalf of an individual with disabilities who has turned 18, a caring adult (which may or may not be the parent) must obtain a court order granting him or her conservatorship and/or guardianship. To apply for a guardianship/conservatorship, contact the probate division of the circuit court in your local county or an attorney of your choice. Guardianship and conservatorship allow the parent or individual appointed by a court to make legally binding decisions on behalf of an adult child, who may not possess the functional or mental capability to do so independently.

Material in this guide is from Tennessee Connections Transition Manual produced by the transition task force in collaboration with personnel from the Tennessee Department of Education. The entire guidebook is available from: www.state.tn.us/education/speced

Note: If your child receives SSI benefits, find out how he/she can work and continue to receive benefits at www.ssa.gov or ask your IEP Team members to put you in touch with the local Social Security Office.

Student/Parent Questionnaire for Transition Planning

Please consider these questions as you prepare for the next IEP meeting for your child. At this meeting we will develop a transition plan, which will identify future goals for your child. These questions will help identify your dreams for your child as we prepare for the future.

Employment:

I think my child will work in a:
(check most appropriate option)

- Full time regular job
- Part time regular job
- A job that has support and is supervised
- Other: _____

My child's strengths in this area are:

My child seems to enjoy working as:

When I think of my child working, I feel that (s) he needs to develop skills in this area:

Note: Tennessee has a site to help teach students about different careers, job duties, salary range, education requirements, etc. at <http://tcids.tbr.edu/>

Education:

After graduation, my child will attend:

- College
- Community college
- Vocational training
- On-the-job training
- Other: _____

My child's educational strengths are:

Recreational:

When my child graduates, I hope (s) he is involved in (check all that apply):

- Independent recreational activities
- Activities with friends
- Organized recreational activities
- Other: _____

During free time, my child enjoys:

- My child's strengths in this area are:

- My child's weaknesses in this area are:

Transportation:

When my child graduates (s)he will (check all that apply):

- Have a driver's license and car
- Walk
- Use a bus or taxi independently
- Use supported transportation (i.e., car pools, special program)
- Other: _____

My child's strengths in this area are:

My child needs to develop skills in this area:

Please check 3 to 5 areas in which your child needs information/support:

Social/Interpersonal:

- Making friends
- Setting goals
- Getting along with family
- Handling legal responsibilities
- Managing anger
- Communicating needs appropriately
- Getting along with the opposite sex
- Other: _____

Personal Management:

- Hygiene
- Safety
- Mobility/transportation
- Money management/budgeting
- Time management
- Other: _____

Health Care Issues such as a serious medical condition or management of medications.

Community Resources and Transition Information

The information that can be used to assist in developing agency linkages for students. Please call or visit agency web sites for additional information.

Employment and Training

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Social Security Administration www.ssa.gov	Employment support programs Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Program; Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)	1330 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN (866) 336-2212/TTY: (901) 544-0052 3602 Austin Peay Hwy, Memphis, TN (855) 855-420-8557/TTY: (901) 373-8695 3461 South Third Street, Memphis, TN (855) 782-9155/TTY: (901) 786-9348	Employment Support Programs: 1-800-254-9489 General information: 1-800-772-1213 TDD: 1-800-325-0778
Division of Rehabilitation Services www.tn.us/humanserv/DRS Age Group: 16 and up Disability Groups: All	Diagnostics & evaluations, counseling and guidance, mental or physical restoration services, prosthetic aids and appliances, vocational training, transportation and maintenance, interpreter services, mobility training, reader services, technology aids, employment assistance/placement and other services that are needed to help an individual reach their vocational goal	170 North Main, Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 528-5284 Option 1
West Tennessee Regional Office Department Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities www.state.tn.us/mental Disability Groups: ID & DD Age Group: All	Adult day training, vocational programs, supported employment, community participation, early intervention services for preschoolers, residential and supported living services, and family support services.	Division of Intellectual Disabilities Services 11437 Milton Wilson Rd. Arlington, TN 38002	Intake Referral (866)372-5709 Case Management Information (901) 745-7200
Division of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services www.state.tn.us/mental	Crisis Assessment	135 North Pauline Memphis, TN 38105	(855) 274-7471
Arc of the Mid South www.arcmidsouth.net Age Group: Disability Group: All	Community services, career development & job placement, and family services	3485 Poplar, Suite 210 Memphis, TN 38111-4633	(901) 327-2473
Easter Seals www.eastersealstn.com	Easter Seals provides services to children and adults with disabilities and other special needs, and support to their families. Job training & employment, adult day services, camping & recreation, medical rehabilitation and inclusive child care.	Easter Seals State Headquarters 3011 Armory Dr. Suite 100 Nashville, TN 37204 West TN Office Easter Seals Adult Services 777-K West Church St. Lexington, TN 38351	(615) 292-6640
Workforce Investment Network http://workforceinvestmentnetwork.com Age Groups: Youth ages 14-21 Adult 18 and up	<u>Ask to speak with the Disability Program Navigator when applying for services.</u> WIA Program (Youth): Provides area youth with year round training opportunities that are directly linked to academic and occupational learning. Adult Programs: Job search and work force solutions.	444 North Main - Memphis, TN 38105 2850 Austin Peay Highway, Memphis, TN 38117 4700 Poplar Ave., (Adults only) Suite 400, Memphis, TN 38128 1295 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104 4240 Hickory Hill Road, Memphis, TN 38141	(901)636-7955 (901) 543-7842 (901)853-4762 (901)543-7535 (901) 365-3205

Community Resources and Transition Information

Employment and Training

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
Lowenstein House, Inc. www.orgsites.com/tn/lowenstein-house	Lowenstein House was designed to help individuals diagnosed with mental illness achieve independence and self-sufficiency through, counseling, skills training, job placement, housing assistance, emotional support and guidance.	821 South Barksdale Memphis, TN 38114	(901) 274-5486
Shelby Residential & Vocational Services www.srvs.org Disability Group: DD, ID	Vocational evaluation, training, job placement, sheltered workshops, adult activity center, and community participation	3971 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118	(901) 869-7787
LiveltUp, Inc. www.ucpmemphis.org	Adult care; enrichment; day services; respite services; home sitter services	3239 Players Club Parkway Memphis, TN 38125	(901) 761-4277
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center/ Tennessee Family Pathfinder: www.familypathfinder.org For disability events calendar www.kc.vanderbilt.edu/pathfinder	The Tennessee Disability Information and Referral Service is a free, statewide, information and referral service for persons with disabilities, family members, and service providers. The scope of information includes all disabilities and individuals of all ages. Service is provided in English and Spanish.	Peabody Box 40 Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 37203	(615) 322-8240 (800) 640-4636 Helpline
The University of Tennessee Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities	The Boling Center for Developmental Disabilities (BCDD) is an interdisciplinary program that supports children and adults with developmental disabilities and their families through training, service, applied research, information dissemination, planning, and policy development.	711 Jefferson Avenue Memphis, TN 38105	Phone: 901-448-6511 Toll-free: 888-572-2249 TDD: 901-448-4677 Fax: 901-448-7097
Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities			(615) 532-6615
Partner in Policy Making	A free leadership program for persons with disabilities and family members of persons with disabilities.	Contact Ned Andrew Solomon at ned.solomon@tn.gov	(615) 532-6556
Support Solutions of Tennessee	Support Solutions offers supported living, personal assistance, behavioral respites, community-based day services, supported employment, dual diagnosis specialization, psychological services, behavior analyst services, and nursing services to any eligible waiver enrollees and other individuals with disabilities.	5909 Shelby Oaks Drive Suite 100 Memphis, TN 38134 http://supportolutionsms.com	(901) 383-9193
Tennessee Department of Health Children's Special Services	Children's Special Services (CSS) provides services to eligible children with special health care needs	814 Jefferson Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 543-6848
TENNderCARE Connection www.tennessee.gov/tenncare/tenndercare	If your child is under 21 and has TennCare, they should have a free, yearly health check up. They can also get other health services through the TENNderCARE program. Together, the doctors and the PCP can treat all of your child's health needs		1-800-342-3145
Tennessee School For the Blind (TSB) www.tsbtigers.org	TSB is a Tennessee Department of Education state school located in Middle Tennessee (TN). The school for the Blind serves K-12 students and the blind and visually impaired community all across the state.	TN School for the Blind 115 Stewarts Ferry Pike Nashville, TN 37214	615-231-7300

Community Resources and Transition Information

Employment and Training

Agency	Services/Training	Address	Phone
The West Tennessee School the Deaf (WTSD)	The curriculum at WTSD is designed to meet the individual needs of our students by emphasizing language development, speech, and listening skills.	100 Berryhill Drive Jackson, Tennessee 38301	(731) 423-5705 Fax: (731) 423-6470
Memphis Goodwill	Prepares individuals with disabilities for the workforce through job readiness and skills training. They offer work adjustment, warehouse, janitorial, customer service classes for Vocational Rehabilitation clients.	Beth Nelson 6995 Stage road Memphis, TN 38133	(901) 323-6221 ext 119 Fax (901) 323-0751
University of Tennessee Center for Literacy, Education and Employment mjacks63@utlc.edu	Provides training and technical assistance in delivering a self determination and career planning curriculum to school systems that are integrated in empowering students at the point of transition from school to adult life.	Melvin Jackson 711 Jefferson Avenue Room E209 Memphis TN 38105	(901) 448-1783
Ross Innovative Employment Solutions mvjones@rossprov.com	An employment training program dedicated to serving older youth ages 18-21. They provide work readiness workshops and employment opportunities.	Marlowe Jones 1472 Mississippi Blvd Memphis, TN 38106	(901) 946-8165 Fax (901) 775-3180
The University of Memphis Institute on Disability mwillia@memphis.edu	Transition programs for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities	Maurice Williams 100 Ball Hall Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 901 678-4303 Fax (901) 678-0748

Post-Secondary Training Options

Memphis College of Art <i>www.mca.edu</i>	Offers undergraduate degrees.	1930 Poplar Ave Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 272-5151
Northwest Mississippi Community College	Offers technical and associate degrees.	5197 W. E. Ross Parkway Southaven, MS 38671	(662) 342-1570
Rhodes College <i>www.Rhodes.edu</i>	Disability Services for Students: (901) 843-3000	2000 N. Parkway Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 843-3000
Southwest Tennessee Community College <i>www.southwest.tn.edu</i>	Offers technical and associate degrees.	737 Union Ave. Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 333-5000
Tennessee Technology Center at Memphis <i>www.memphis.tec.tn.us</i>	Offers technical certifications.	550 Alabama Ave. Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 543-6100
The University of Memphis <i>www.memphis.edu</i>	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees. Office of Disability Services for Students: (901) 678-2880	Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 678-2000
University of Tennessee Health Science Center	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees.	800 Madison Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 448-5500
William R. Moore College of Technology	Offers technical certifications.	1200 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-1978
Gallaudet University	Offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for deaf, hard of hearing and hearing students	Washington, DC 20002	TTY/Voice: (800) 995-0550 Videophone: (202) 250-2474
Rochester Institute of Technology	Offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs for deaf, hard of hearing students	One Lamb Memorial Drive Rochester, NY 14623-5603	(585) 475-2411

Community Resources and Transition Information

Post-Secondary Training Options

Agency	Services Provided	Address	Phone
Christian Brothers University	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees	650 East Parkway Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 321-3000
Victory University <i>www.victory.edu</i>	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees	255 North Highland Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 320-9797
LeMoyne-Owen College <i>www.loc.edu</i>	Offers undergraduate and graduate degrees.	807 Walker Ave. Memphis, TN 38126	(901)435-1500
Shelby County : Adult Education	Adult literacy, adult basic education classes and general education development	Messick Adult Center 703 South Greer, Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 416-4840 (901) 416-8186
Career and Technology Centers	Vocational and technical classes	Southwest: 3746 Horn Lake Memphis, TN 38109 Trezevant: 3224 Range Line Memphis, TN 38127	(901) 416-8186 (901) 416-3800

Living Options

Memphis Housing Authority <i>www.memphisha.org</i>	Provided: Housing, search and information, subsidized housing, Section 8 Rental Assistance Program, homeownership program and house and home grant program administered in Nashville office.	700 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105	(901)544-1100 TDD: (901) 544-1130
Neighborhood Housing Opportunities Eligibility Guidelines: Employed/individuals who are working toward a home purchase.	Interim housing (12-24 months)	1548 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 729-2934
Open Arms Corporation	Day programs and residential living	2070 Whitney, P.O. Box 271275, Memphis, TN 38167	(901) 371-9774
RHA Community Homes, Inc.	Residential services (employment and vocational) to individuals coming out of state development centers	5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 718, Memphis, TN 38157	(901) 767-1455
Seek for the Old Path Shelter Eligibility Guidelines: Mothers with children and homeless women	Emergency housing and transitional housing (30-90 days)	1169 Linden Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 274-2989
Shelby Residential & Vocational Services <i>www.srvs.org</i>	Family support, residential services, adult activity center, and community participation. Disability Group: DD; ID	3971 Knight Arnold Road Memphis, TN 38118	Admissions (901) 869-7789
Memphis Center for Independent Living Center: The Memphis Center For Independent Living is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to integrating people with disabilities into community life.	<i>www.mcil.org</i>	1633 Madison Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-6404

Community Resources and Transition Information

Living Options

Agency	Services Provided	Address	Phone
Tennessee Rural Development (USDA) Rural Development efforts in providing affordable, quality housing are the responsibility of the Housing Programs. Home ownership has always been an important "American Dream", but for many rural residents this dream has not been realized due to economic conditions and a lack of affordable financing. The Housing Program is working daily to change this fact.	www.rurdev.usda.gov/tn	West Town Commons 85G Stonebrook Place Jackson, TN 38305	(731) 668-2091 Ext. 2
Memphis Center for Independent Living Center: The Memphis Center For Independent Living is a community based non-profit organization dedicated to integrating people with disabilities into community life.	www.mcil.org	1633 Madison Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-6404
Community Service Agency	Assistance with utilities (MLGW payments) (Austin Peay & Shelby Dr. locations), rent and mortgage assistance (Ayers location Eligibility Guidelines: low income household.	2670 Union Extended, Suite 500 Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 222-4200
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Memphis Eligibility Guidelines:	Families Services Provided: Permanent housing.	7136 Winchester Rd., Memphis, TN 38125	(901) 761-4771
John F. Kennedy Center/ Tennessee Family Pathfinder: www.vanderbilt.edu/pathfinder	The Tennessee Disability Information and Referral Service is a free, statewide, information and referral service for persons with disabilities, family members, and service providers. The scope of information includes all disabilities and individuals of all ages. Service is provided in English and Spanish.	Peabody Box 40 Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN 37203	Helpline: (800) 640-4636
Brenda Richardson Memorial Care Homes Todd-brmch@bellsouth.net	A supportive living provider and offers community based day services	Valerie Todd 5100 Stage Road Suite 2 Bartlett, TN 38134	(901) 388-3545 Fax (901) 388-3423
The Baddour Center mperkins@baddour.org	A residential community for adults with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities. They provide work complexes, physical fitness, recreational activities, spiritual growth, computer lab and partnering with our local community college offering continuing education.	Melissa Perkins P.O. Box 97 Senatobia, MS	(662) 562-0638
St. John's Community Services kcotter@sjcs.org	Provides community living services for individuals to live in their own apartments or homes alone or with one or two roommates. Staffing is provided according to individual need. SJCS also provides community participation services that are "without walls", providing opportunities for people to volunteer and be involved in their communities.	Katie Cotter 7891 Stage Hills Blvd. Bartlett, TN 38133	(901) 312-6074 (901) 385-9450

Community Resources and Transition Information

Living Options

Agency	Services Provided	Address	Phone
Omni Visions jdavis@omnivisions.com	Residential support provided in two different models: supported living model and family model. Day services provided: community bases services, educational, leisure, hobbies, volunteerism, work exploration, and employment based day services. Health care and transportation provided for all services.	Julie Davis 6570 Stage Road Suite 120 Bartlett, TN 38134	(901) 371-0030 ext 1751 (901)371-0938
Meritan harryguinocor@meritan.org	Provides an array of services to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities including: Adult foster care, home and community based services, private duty nursing, physical therapy, medical, residential services. All of these services are made possible through state funding.	Harry Guinocor 4700 Popular Memphis, TN 38117	(901) 766-0656 Fax (901) 766 0185
Freedom Co-op	Personal assistance, community based and respite care for individuals on the statewide waiver.	Suzanne Colsey 1633 Madison Avenue Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 603 5864
Where the Heart Is, Inc.	Provides private duty nursing, home health (RN, PT, OT) and CHOICES (Medicaid waiver) services specifically oriented to pediatric and geriatric populations in Shelby, Tipton, and Fayette Counties.	Sam Overby 760 Great Oaks Road Eads, TN 38028	(901) 867-1556 Fax (901) 867-1522
United Seating and Mobility cbaker@unitedseating.com	Provision of adaptive rehabilitation devices such as walkers, custom wheelchairs, standers, etc. for people with disabilities to promote greater independence and to enable people to perform tasks with less difficulty.	Cathie Baker 1687 Shelby Oaks #9 Memphis, TN 38134	(901) 379-0096 ext 3372 (901) 379-0018
Quality Support Coordination of Tennessee gisctn@comcast.net	Independent support coordinators assist families in finding residential or personal assistance providers. They also create an individualized plan of care so that services are person centered to their needs.	Lisa Espinoza 2322 Ascott Place Cordova, TN 38016	(901) 531-7350 Fax (901) 531-7352

Community Resources and Transition Information

Interpreting Services

Agency	Services Provided	Address	Phone
DeafConnect		144 North Bellevue Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 278-9301 TTY: (901) 278-9308 Fax: (901) 278-9301
Tennessee Relay Services having a TTY/TDD			Tennessee Relay Services having a TTY/TDD In Tennessee dial 711 TTY/PC Users 800-848-0298 Voice Users 800-848-0299 Espanol - 866-503-0263 Speech-to-Speech 866-503-0264 900 Access - 900-476-2727 (TTY) Customer Service - 866-503-0262 (Voice, TTY, ASCII, STS)
<i>Local hospitals- If interpreting service or a TTY/TDD is needed please inform the hospital staff.</i>			

Vision Services

Clovernook Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired		346 St. Paul Avenue Memphis, TN 38126	(901) 523-9590
To promote independence and foster the highest quality of life for people with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities.			
<i>www.clovernook.org</i>			

Transportation

MATA Plus <i>www.mataplus.com</i>		1370 Levee Road, Memphis, TN 38103	Schedule information: 901-722-7171
Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA) <i>www.matatransit.com</i>		1370 Levee Road, Memphis, TN 38103	Schedule information: 274-6282, Option zero (0)
United Access	<i>Stair lifts for home and vehicle modifications</i>	Justin Searcy 9465 Hillshire Circle Memphis, TN 38183	(901) 888-1010 Fax (901) 888-1009

Community Resources and Transition Information

Literacy Council

Agency	Web Address	Address	Phone
Memphis Literacy Council	www.memphisliteracycouncil.org	902 Cooper Street, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 327-6000

Recreation, Social and Leisure

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis Programs: Leadership and Character Development, Education and Career Development and Camp Phoenix	www.bgcm.org	Memphis, TN 44 S. Rembert 38104 903 Walker 38106 894 Isabelle 38122 4299 Ross Road, 38141	(901) 278-2947 (901) 744-3073 (901) 324-5763
The Exceptional Foundation A non-profit organization which strives to meet the social and recreational needs of the exceptional population.	www.exceptionalfoundation.org	1780 Moriah Woods Boulevard, Suite 4, Memphis, TN 38117	(901) 387-5002
Martha's Manor Day activities center for women diagnosed mentally retarded. Age Group: Female 22 and up	www.mathasmanor.org	4680 Walnut Grove Road Memphis, TN 38107	(901) 763-1373
Memphis Park Commission	www.ci.memphis.tn.us	There are 230 parks, 25 golf courses: 10 public, 15 private, 17 public swimming pools, 26 community centers, and 14 country clubs in the city of Memphis. Information about these facilities can be found by going to the City of Memphis' web site.	
Memphis-Shelby County Public Library There are 23 branches locations through the city and county	www.memphislib.lib.tn.us Go to This Month for current workshop information.	3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 415-2700 Fax: LINC 323-7206
Raymond Skinner Center: Memphis Park Commission	Swimming pool, sport activities, day program and after school camps.	712 Tanglewood, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 272-2528
The Memphis Zoo	www.memphiszoo.org	2000 Galloway, Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 725-3400 ext. 3317 Fax: (901) 725-9305
TN Special Olympics	www.specialolympics-mem.org	1355 Lynnfield Road, Memphis, TN 38119	(901) 683-1271
YMCA of Memphis and the Mid-South	http://www.ymcamemphis.org	6373 Quail Hollow, Suite 201, Memphis, TN 38120	901-766-7677 Fax: 901-766-7685
YWCA of Greater Memphis	http://www.memphisywca.org	766 South Highland Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 323-2211 Fax: (901) 458-3784
Cordova Bowling Center	We provide services to align API's and ALE's and sign evidence sheets for portfolio assessments. We have special bowling prices for those with special needs every-day and anytime.	7945 Club Center Cove Cordova, TN 38016	(901) 754-4275 Fax (901) 754-9267
Friends of Faith	Provides a day of Art Work, music, crafts and painting for those with special needs	Bill Cooper 4210 Alturia Road Bartlett, 38135	(901) 438-6924
Memphis Capernaum Young Life memphiscapernaum.younglife.org	High School outreach ministry (14-22 years) to students with varying disabilities	Susan Greene	(901) 674-6881 Fax (901) 820 0765

Community Resources and Transition Information

Performing Arts

Agency	Web Address	Address	Phone
Ballet Memphis School	www.balletmemphis.org	7950 Trinity Rd. Memphis, TN 38018	(901) 737-7322 Fax: (901) 737-7037
Circuit Playhouse	www.playhouseonthesquare.org	1705 Poplar Ave. Memphis, TN 38104	901) 726-5523
Memphis Symphony Orchestra	www.memphissymphony.org	3100 Walnut Grove Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 327-5078 (Youth Program) (901) 324-3627/ Fax: (901) 324-3698
Opera Memphis	www.operamemphis.org	P.O. Box 171413 Memphis, TN 38187	(901) 257-3100
Orpheum Theater	www.orpheum.com	203 South Main, Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 525-3000/(901) 525-7800 Fax: (901) 526-0829
Playhouse on the Square	www.playhouseonthesquare.org	51 S. Cooper St., Memphis, TN 38114	(901) 725-0776 Fax: (901) 272-7530
Theatre Memphis	www.theatrememphis.org	630 Perkins Extd., Memphis, TN 38117	(901) 682-8323 Fax: (901) 763-4096

Museums and Art Galleries

Chucalissa Archaeological Museum and Reconstructed Indian Village	www.cas.memphis.edu	1987 Indian Village Drive, Memphis, TN 38109	(901) 785-3160 Fax: (901) 785-0519
Memphis Brooks Museum of Art Overton Park	www.brooksmuseum.org	1934 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 544-6200 Fax: (901) 725-4071
Memphis College of Art	www.mca.edu	1930 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 726-4085
Mississippi River Museum	www.mudisland.com	125 North Front Street, Memphis, TN 38108	1-800-507-6507/(901) 576-7241 Fax: (901) 576-6666
Stax Museum of American Soul Music	www.soulsvilleusa.com	870 East McLemore Avenue, Memphis, TN 38106	(901) 942-7685
The Dixon Gallery & Gardens	www.dixon.org	4339 Park Avenue Memphis, TN 38117	(901) 761-5250 Fax: (901) 682-0943
Coon Creek Science Center	www.memphismuseums.org	McNairy County, TN	(901) 320-6320
IMAX	www.memphismuseums.org	3050 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 320-6320
Lichterman Nature Center	www.memphismuseums.org	5992 Quince Road Memphis, TN 38119	(901) 767-7322
Mageveny House	www.memphismuseums.org	198 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 526-4464 Fax: (901) 577-2660
Mallory-Neely House	www.memphismuseums.org	652 Adams Avenue, Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 523-1484 Fax: (901) 526-8666
Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum	www.memphisrocknsoul.org	145 Lt. George W.L. Ave Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 543-0800 Fax: (901) 543-0888

Community Resources and Transition Information

Museums and Art Galleries

Agency	Web Address	Address	Phone
National Civil Rights Museum	www.civilrightsmuseum.org	450 Mulberry Street Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 521-9699 Fax: (901)521-9740
Peabody Place Museum	www.belz.com	119 South Main Street Memphis, TN 38103	(901) 260-7419 Fax: (901)521-9740
Pink Place Museum	www.memphismuseums.org	3050 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 320-6320
Sharpe Planetarium	www.memphismuseums.org	3050 Central Avenue Memphis, TN 38111	(901) 320-6320
The Children's Museum	www.cmom.com	2525 Central Avenue, Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 458-2678 Fax: 901-458-4033

Self Advocacy

Agency	Services Provided	Contact/Address	Phone
STEP INC. (Support Training for Exceptional Parents)	Information on STEP's transition and training for parents and students	Derek Flake 2157 Madison Avenue Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 726-4334 (901) 272-5002
Just Care Family Network jericaphillips@shelbycountyttn.gov	Provides a coordinated system of care and support for youth and families dealing with mental health issues. Includes family counseling, support and outreach, mental health information and education, wrap around facilitation and community support.	Jerica Phillips 1750 Madison Avenue Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 222-4503 (901) 222-4501
Disability Law and Advocacy Center of TN ginab@dlactn.org	Advocates for the rights of Tennesseans with disabilities to ensure they have an equal opportunity to be productive and respected members of our society.	Gina Brady 2963 Union Avenue Ext. Suite 201, Memphis, TN 38112	(901) 458-6013 ext 214 Fax (901) 458-7819
ADAPT of Tennessee Josue.adapt@yahoo.com	Is part of a national grassroots community that organizes disability rights activists to engage in a non-violent direct action to assure the civil and human rights of people with disabilities to live in freedom.	Josue Rodriguez 1633 Madison Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 726-6404 EXT 114
Mid South Access Center for Technology act@memphis.edu	Services are provided by experts in the fields of rehabilitation assistive technology and speech language pathology. The Mid South Access Center for Technology provides resources to loan to individuals with disabilities and to teachers in the greater Memphis area. Teachers should contact Mid South ACT staff for tips and strategies to help when differentiating instruction for individuals with disabilities in inclusive learning environments.	Lavonnie Perry Claybon 530 Patterson Street 119 Patterson Hall Memphis, TN 38152	(901) 678-3215
Shelby County Health Department	Information is provided from various health related topics, air quality, and general health information.	Larry Smith 814 Jefferson Memphis, TN 38105	(901) 222-9596
TNCSA (Tennessee Community Services Agency)	Learn how to apply for services such as screenings for food stamps, earned benefits, TANF, Medicaid, Habitat for Humanity programs, Safe Link wireless, prescription programs, WIC, and some health insurance programs.	Allison Linnevers 407 Union Avenue, Suite 1300 Memphis, TN 38104	(901) 543-4654 Fax (901) 543-4664



160 S. Hollywood
Memphis, TN 38112