

2020/2021 Transition to Adulthood

Transition planning is the process of preparing a student for the completion of his/her school program and moving into adult life. At age 16 or younger, the student's IEP will become more focused on the Transition from School to Adulthood. As students leave school to create their adult lives, our goal is to assist them in developing a support system to help them achieve their goals and dreams in order to have a fulfilling life. The support system developed will vary depending on the unique needs of each student.

"Transition" refers to the critical transition into adulthood. Transition includes planning for the future, connecting with the community, completing high school, possibly continuing education at our life skills center, learning about legal information, discussing independent living, and exploring employment and work options.

Transition focuses on four specific areas: Employment, community participation, post-secondary education, and, when appropriate, independent living skills. A detailed explanation for each of these areas can be found [here](#).

Transition Regulations

Our schools have Post-Secondary Transition Rules and Regulations that they must follow.

As defined in IDEA: "transition services" means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability..." For detailed information visit: [Michigan Alliance For Families](#). The site includes a great [webinar](#) on transition.

Transition. Getting Started.

Special Education students will begin seeing the Transition Team at work in their school when they are ages 14 and older. Parents and students will find that Transition Plans become the central component of the discussion at IEP conferences. Students will begin to plan and set goals with teachers, guidance counselors, the ISD transition staff, as well as other supportive agencies and organizations that may come into the school or be in contact with students outside of school.

Transition can be a very exciting time, but also a period of uncertainty for both our students and their families.

Some of the sources of support listed here:

- Students should start building a Positive Personal Profile. [Parent and student input](#): What is your greatest concern when thinking about employment for your son or daughter? What do you need to feel hopeful and energized about your son or daughter's employment future?
- What happens when a student turns 18? At 18 years old a student reaches the age of majority. This brings many changes to parental and student rights. [Here](#) is additional information regarding age of majority.
- Agencies such as Disability Network and Michigan Rehabilitation Services can play a significant role in the Transition process. The school needs the signature of a parent (or student if 18 or older) to invite an agency to a meeting. [Consent to Invite Outside Agency](#).

Community Resources:

- [Michigan Rehabilitation Services](#)
- [Disability Network Southwest Michigan](#)
- [Woodlands Healthcare Network](#)
- [Cass County Resource Guide](#)
- [Drivers Education](#)
- [SouthWest Michigan College Disability Services](#)
- [Red Book Social Security](#)
- [Turning 18 Social Security](#)
- [Ticket to Work Social Security](#)
- [Michigan Alliance For Families](#)

If you have further questions you may contact:

Robert Tarantino
Lewis Cass ISD
Supervisor of Compliance and Monitoring
269-445-6248

Michele Derenzy
Lewis Cass ISD
Supervisor of Special Education and Transition
269-390-5055