

What are Transition Services?

'Transition services' refers to the postsecondary planning process required for students in special education programs, ages 16 and older. In Michigan, the goal is to make transition planning a central part of the IEP planning process at age 14.



Who coordinates transition?

Many people share responsibility for making transition work. Some of those individuals include students, parents, teachers, school guidance counselors, Lewis Cass ISD staff, community service providers and supportive agencies. It's useful to think about everyone involved as a team, all working toward a positive outcome for the student. Some of the key resources in Cass County are listed at the bottom of the page, with webpage links, email addresses and phone numbers.

Transition services involve students, families, teachers, & community agencies. Areas addressed include such topics as: Independent Living Skills, Job or Vocational Training, Self Determination Skills, Career Exploration Activities, Participation in IEP Goal Setting, Job Shadowing Activities, Visits to Work Sites, Visits to Schools and Training Sites, Job Coaching, and locating supportive services, including college disability services offices.

How Transition Works:

Most students will begin seeing the Transition Team at work in their school. Parents and students will find that transition plans will become a central part of the discussion at IEP conferences. Students will begin to plan and set goals with teachers, guidance counselors, the ISD transition staff, and other supportive agencies and organizations that may come into the school or be in contact with students outside of school. You will find some of these sources of support listed here:

Here are some of the agencies and individuals involved in transition in Cass County:

- Special Education teachers and the para-professionals who work in your child's school
- Your child's school guidance counselor
- Your school district's Child Study Coordinator
- LCISD Transition Coordinator: Susan Searight (269) 445-2685 or ssearight@lewiscassisd.org
- LCISD Special Education Supervisor: Pete Bennett (269)782-7727, ext. 105 or pbennett@lewiscassisd.org
- LCISD Employment Training Specialist: Ginny Richey (269) 445-6221 or grichey@lewiscassisd.org
- Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Rehabilitation Services:
- Kim Kazmirski, Counselor (269) 445-6214 or KazmirskiK@michigan.gov
- Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, Michigan Commission for the Blind: Shannon McVoy, Counselor (269) 337-3449.
- Woodlands Behavioral Healthcare Network: (269) 445-2451 <http://www.woodlandsbhn.org/>
- LCISD Director of Special Education: Louis Chism (269) 445-6286 or echism@lewiscassisd.org
- Community Connections of Southwest Michigan, A Center for Independent Living of Southwest Michigan: 1-800-578-4245 <http://www.miconnect.org/>
- Southwestern Michigan College, Office of Special Populations: 1-800-456-8675 <http://www.swmich.edu>

Useful information links:

- Berrien RESA's transition services System's Navigator: <http://systemsnavigator.wikidot.com/>
- Center for Educational Networking: <http://www.cenmi.org/>
- Michigan Alliance for Families: <http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/>
- Michigan Rehabilitation Services: <http://www.michigan.gov/mdcd/0,1607,7-122-25392---,00.html>
- Planning for college (excellent resource about college disability services): <http://www.ccdanet.org/cep>
- Driver's education information: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/gdl_parent_16316_7.pdf
- Bridges 4 Kids Newsletter: <http://www.bridges4kids.org/>