



Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

Building Positive Futures for Virginia's Children

TRANSITION: A TEAM EFFORT

A teen's transition to adulthood brings many questions with many possibilities. Future options for students are plentiful and might include any or all of the following:

- an academic career
- competitive or supported employment
- independent or supported living

Many parents are surprised to find their children might not be entitled to services once special education ends. After leaving special education, a young adult may want or need case management, personal attendant services, assistive technology devices, medical care, transportation, job coaching, and higher education. These services might be available within the community; however, the services may or may not be free. Identifying the agencies and the key players while a student is still in school can help families in the transition process.

It is important to begin asking questions early. What will the student do once high school ends? What options and opportunities are available or possible? What needs to happen between now and then? **Who are the people who can help a student prepare for transition?**

The student: Students' strengths, wants, needs and interests are at the center of all planning efforts. As students look ahead, they can begin to identify hopes and dreams for their futures. What is on their list of likes and dislikes with respect to higher education and career training? How will they fill their days once school is "let out"?

Family and personal networks: Families have rich resources available through their personal and professional networks. Extended family members, religious and civic organizations, community recreation programs, social clubs and neighbors all are potential members of the transition team, as they can help to support linkages to community based activities.

School professionals: Special education case managers and special education teachers can offer advice on developing goals to pursue academic dreams. High school guidance counselors can identify college or other continuing education options, testing deadlines, and potential financial resources. For students not planning to go to college, high school employment coordinators, transition coordinators, and community based instruction teachers can also help prepare for life once special education ends.

Other state and local public agencies may also offer guidance and support in developing goals and supports to help carry the goals to completion. **Adult Service agencies**

Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS): <http://www.vadrs.org/>

DRS assists persons with disabilities in reaching employment goals depending on the unique needs of the individual and whether or not the individual meets the state criterion for eligibility. Funded by federal and state money, DRS



has regional and local offices. In many cases, services can begin during high school. DRS counselors may provide vocational guidance and counseling, vocational assessments, rehabilitative and assistive technology.

Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Substance Abuse (DMHMRSAS):

<http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/> DMHMRSAS at the regional or local level is known as the Community Services Board (CSB). The CSB is an umbrella agency serving individuals with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. CSB services are paid through federal, state, and local funding and sliding payment scale. Services might include employment services, case management, and independent living. Once students turn 18, the student's eligibility is based on his or her own income – not family income.

Independent Living Centers help people with disabilities to achieve and maintain self-sufficient lives within the community. These centers are nonprofit organizations and go by different names in different areas. You can find a center for your area by linking to <http://www.ilusa.com/links/ilcenters.htm>. There may be a charge for classes, but advocacy services are typically free. Some centers may have staff who can attend IEP meetings for a fee.

Department of Labor - One Stop Career Centers: <http://www.servicelocator.org> One Stop Career Centers are regional and local agencies providing employment services for eligible youth and adults. One Stop Career Centers often do not have a disability focus, but will not turn a student away from services because of a disability. In fact, many house *Disability Navigators* who have specialized training and expertise to assist job seekers with disabilities. They might be available to help transitioning youth with disabilities.

Social Security Administration (SSA): www.ssa.gov SSA operates the federally funded program providing benefits for people of any age who are unable to do substantial work and have a severe mental or physical disability. Several programs are offered for people with disabilities, including Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Plans to Achieve Self-Support (PASS), Medicaid, and Medicare. Once a student turns 18, family income is not considered when determining eligibility for SSI. Application information may be found on the SSA website.

Local employers: Regional and local employers can potentially be members of the transition team, especially if the student or family has a personal relationship. In addition to regular employment, employers might offer mentoring, internships, volunteer opportunities or cooperative learning experiences.

Learning all you can and having determination and persistence is key for effective transitions. Some agencies may have limited involvement with students while they are still in high school or be limited to working only with adults. Either way, it is a good idea for families or students with disabilities to know the agencies, the central point of contact, the eligibility requirements, and what, if any support can be expected from these agencies.



Introducing the TACE Centers

Regional Technical Assistance and Continuing Education (TACE) Centers provide technical support and continuing education programs to state vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies and their partners. The Centers are VR's resource for current, reliable information on quality management practices, service delivery and vocational rehabilitation skill sets. The Centers have the resources of the entire TA Network to help each agency improve its organizational performance and ultimately improve employment outcomes for consumers with disabilities. For more information on current or planned activities in a federal region, contact the TACE Centers as follows:

Region 1 – CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT

University of Massachusetts, Boston

Institute for Community Inclusion/ UCEDD

100 Morrissey Blvd.

Boston, MA 02125

Phone: (617) 287-4342

TTY: (617) 287-4350

Web site: <http://www.nercep.org>

Region 2 – NJ, NY, PR, VI

State University of New York, Buffalo

316 Parker Hall, 3435 Main St.

Buffalo, NY 14214-3007

Phone: (716) 829-3934

Web site: <http://www.rcep2.buffalo.edu>

Region 3 – DE, DC, MD, PA, VA, WV

George Washington University

2011 Eye St. N.W., Ste 300

Washington, D.C. 20006

Phone: (202) 973-1550

TTY (202) 973-1544

Web site: <http://www.gwu.edu/~rrcep/>

Region 4 – AL, FL, GA, KY, NC, SC, MS, TN

TACE Southeast

1419 Mayson St.

Atlanta, GA 30309

Phone: 404-541-9001

Web site: <http://www.tacesoutheast.org>

Region 5 – IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

Southern Illinois University – Carbondale

Norhtwest Annex, Wing B, Ste 101

Carbondale, IL 62901-6703

Phone: (618) 536-2461

Web site: <http://www.rcepV.siu.edu/>

Region 6 AR, LA, NM, OK, TX

University of Arkansas

Graduate Education Building

College of Education and Health Professions

Fayetteville, AR 72701

Phone: (501) 623-7700

Web site: <http://www.uacurrents.org>

Region 7 IA, KS, MO, NE

University of Missouri-Columbia

98 Corporate Lake Drive

Columbia, MO 65203

Phone: (417) 532-7192

Region 8 CO, MT, ND, SD, UT, WY

University of Northern Colorado

Gunter Hall, Room 0290

Campus Box 82

Greely, CO 80639

Phone: (970) 351-1320, (800) 765-8230

Web site: <http://www.unco.edu/TACE>

Region 9 AZ, CA, HI, NV, Pacific Basin

San Diego State University

Interwork Institute

5500 Campanile Drive

San Diego, CA 92182

Phone: (619) 594-7183

Web site: <http://interwork.sdsu.edu/>

Region 10 AK, ID, OR, WA

University of Washington

Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation

6912 220th St. SW, Suite 105

Mountlake Terrace, WA 98043

Phone: (425) 774-9303

TTY: (425) 771-7438

<http://www.ccer.org>



Regional Resource and Federal Centers

The Federal Resource Center for Special Education (FRC)

Academy for Educational Development
1825 Connecticut Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20009
Phone: 202.884.8215 | Fax: 202.884.8443
TTY: 202.884.8200
E-mail: frc@aed.org
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/>

Northeast Regional Resource Center (NERRC)

Learning Innovations at WestEd
20 Winter Sport Lane
Williston, VT 05495
Phone: 802.951.8218 | Fax: 802.951.8222
TTY: 802.951.8213
E-mail: kreeddy@wested.org
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/nerrc>

Mid-South Regional Resource Center (MSRRC)

University of Kentucky / IHDI
1 Quaility Street - Suite 722
Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: 859.257.4921 | Fax: 859.257.4353
TTY: 859.257.2903
E-mail: jjohns@uky.edu
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/msrrc>

Southeast Regional Resource Center (SERRC)

School of Education
Auburn University Montgomery
PO Box 244023
Montgomery, AL 36124-4023
Phone: 334.244.3100 | Fax: 334.244.3101
E-mail: ebeale@mail.aum.edu
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/serrc>

North Central Regional Resource Center (NCRRC)

Institute on Community Integration
University of Minnesota
5 Pattee Hall
150 Pillsbury Drive, SE
Minneapolis, MN 55455
Phone: 612.624.9722 | Fax: 612.624.9344
TTY: 800.627.3529
E-mail: ncrrc@umn.edu
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/ncrrc>

Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center (MPRRC)

Utah State University
1780 North Research Pkwy, Suite 112
Logan, UT 84341
Phone: 435.752.0238 | Fax: 435.753.9750
TTY: 435.753.9750
E-mail: John.Copenhaver@usu.edu
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/mprrc>

Western Regional Resource Center (WRRC)

1268 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1268
Phone: 541.346.5641 | Fax: 541.346.0322
E-mail: wrrc@uoregon.edu
<http://www.rrfcnwork.org/wrrc>

Secondary/Postsecondary

National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities

Clemson University
209 Martin Street
Clemson, SC 29631-1555
Phone: 864.656.2599 | Fax: 864.656.0136
E-mail: lboost@clemson.edu
<http://www.ndpc-sd.org>

National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center

UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Boulevard
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001
Phone: 704.687.8606 | Fax: 704.687.2916
TTY: 704.687.6327
E-mail: chfowler@email.uncc.edu
<http://www.nsttac.org>

