

TOP TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Expect Success—High expectations lead to greater outcomes!

Start Early—Eligibility for transition services begins the year the student turns 16. It is important for families to consider beginning as early as possible to learn about options and help their student. Schools can help put adult supports and services in place while your student is in school.

Focus on the Student—Promote independence and build on strengths. Some students may need extra assistance, so it's important for the parent or guardian to assist when needed. Make sure that his or her preferences, interests and needs are at the center of the plan.

Waiting Lists—Apply early for agency services, waivers, housing, etc., as there may be waiting lists.

Network—Connect with other parents, team members, community supports.

Learn All You Can—Build on knowledge and skills through research and attending workshops and conferences.

Work Cooperatively—Your student's well-being is vitally important. The best way to advocate for your student is to be cooperative while voicing your concerns respectfully. Best practice is collaboration.

Put it in writing—You will have many conversations, with many different people during the course of transition planning. Keep copies of any documents about your student. This will help you stay on top of your student's plan.

Continuum—Transition checklist, grids, timelines, etc. may be designated by age or grade, however, some students may need more time to master skills in a skill area or may be ready to move to the next skill level.

Ask Lots of Questions—Know what's available, who to contact, and how to get needed services. Call FACT (Family and Community Together) for support and information to help you with the transition process, see page 88 for additional information.