Learn More About
The Arc of Tennessee’s Secondary Transition Project

www.thearctn.org/education.php

The Arc of Tennessee empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to actively participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

The Arc of Tennessee manages by the values, Integrity, Respect, Courage, and Justice. Donations to The Arc of Tennessee are tax-deductible.

The Secondary Transition Project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee’s Department of Education.

The Arc Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, age, national origin, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, level of disability, limited English proficiency or status as a protected veteran. If you feel you have been discriminated against please contact Peggy Cooper, Title VI coordinator, The Arc TN, 800-835-7077 ext. 15, pcooper@thearctn.org.

RESOURCES

Disability Services and Supports Finder – TN Disability Pathfinder
http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/pathfinder/ or 800-640-4636


Families considering conservatorship should read this first:

Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES Program – Home and Community Supports:
West Tennessee: 866/372-5709
Middle Tennessee: 800/654-4839
East Tennessee: 888/531-9876

Family Support Funding
https://www.tn.gov/didd/consumers/family-support.html
Middle Tennessee: 615/231-5057
East Tennessee: 865/594-9288
West Tennessee: 901/745-7215

Family Voices of Tennessee
Health Care Transition Information
www.tndisability.org/familyvoices
615/383-9442

STEP
http://www.tnstep.org or 800-280-7837

TransitionTN
http://transitiontn.org/about/
What is Secondary Transition?
Secondary Transition is the journey from high school to adult life. A student who receives special education services, also has transition plan with measurable outcomes.

In Tennessee transition begins at 14 or younger and continues until the student earns a regular diploma or exits high school the year they turn 22. Secondary Transition:
1. Recognizes the student’s preferences, interests, and needs
2. Develops the student’s future vision
3. Identifies the student’s present levels of educational performance
4. Creates a foundation for the IEP with a statement of needed transition services
5. Provides a format to evaluate the IEP’s progress

Student Preferences, Interests and Needs
Students are more motivated to achieve when they play a key role in their educational planning. Age-appropriate assessments help the student identify their preferences, interests, and needs.

Develop a Vision for the Future
Help the student identify their plan for work and living circumstances as an adult. Person-centered planning is essential to help the student develop their vision.

Develop the IEP with Statement of Needed Transition Services
Measurable post-school annual goals must address:
- Instruction (high school classes)
- Related services (like transportation)
- Postsecondary education or training
- Employment
- Independent or supported living
- Community involvement
- Adult living objectives (e.g. cooking)

Parents’ Role
Parents continue to play an important role in their young adult child’s education. It is essential to continue to attend all IEP Team Meetings.

Implement the IEP
The student, with the help of the IEP team, chooses the classes to take along with what transition services the student needs. A good transition plan will identify classes, services and supports that point toward the student’s goals for adult life.

Evaluate Results
Each year, the student should make progress toward their post-secondary goals. As a student graduates or exits high school, their team will help the student create a Summary of Performance.

The overall goal is for the student to become an adult with post-school goals in the areas of:
- Education/Training
- Employment
- Community Involvement
- Transportation

Student Led IEP team meetings are a great way for students to learn leadership and become self-advocates who think for themselves and practice self-determination by making their own decisions.

Transfer of Rights
When a student reaches 18 years old, they an adult with all the rights afforded to any other adult. They can sign their own IEP. A parent no longer has to be invited to IEP team meetings.