

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

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Click on **Secondary Transition Project**

The Arc of Tennessee advocates for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Through our family-based network of members and chapters, we support and empower individuals and families; connect and inform individuals and families; improve support and service systems; influence public policy; increase public awareness; and inspire inclusive communities.

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 Department of Education.

The Arc of Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.

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Understanding the Secondary Transition Process

**The
Arc**
of Tennessee



What is Secondary Transition?

For special education purposes, the process of Secondary Transition is the journey from high school into adult life with outcomes you can measure.

Transition begins when a student is 14 (or younger) in Tennessee and continues until the student receives a “regular education diploma” or exits high school the year they turn 22. Again, Secondary Transition is a process that generally follows these steps:

1. Identify Student Preferences, Interests and Needs & Develop the Student’s Vision for the Future
2. Present Level of Educational Performance
3. Develop IEP with Statement of Needed Transition Services
4. Implement IEP
5. Evaluate Results

Identify Student Preferences, Interests and Needs

Students feel more motivated to achieve if he/she is leading the educational planning process. Age Appropriate Assessments should be used to identify the student’s preferences, interests, and needs.

Develop a Vision for the Future

Based on the student’s assessment data, help the student identify the steps in becoming who he/she wants to be. A PATH is a great planning tool that can be used to develop the student’s vision.

Develop IEP with Statement of Needed Transition Services

Measurable Post-Secondary (after high school) Annual Goals (with Short Term Objectives/Benchmarks) must address these areas:

- Instruction (high school classes),
- Related Services (like transportation),
- Post-Secondary education and/or training (college, job training, etc.),
- Employment,
- Independent (or supported) living,
- Community Involvement, and/or
- Adult Living Objectives (daily living skills like cooking, etc.)

Implement IEP

The student and IEP team choose the courses (classes) the student will take along with what Transition services the student needs. An IEP meeting can be called at any time to change the current IEP.

Evaluate Results

Each year, the IEP team should see progress toward the student’s post-secondary goals. When a student exits or graduates high school, the school will provide a Summary of Performance.

Remember that Secondary Transition is a process that begins by age 14 and continues through age 21 as needed.

Student-Led IEP meetings are a great way to empower students to become Self-Advocates who practice Self-Determination by making his/her own decisions.

Transfer of Rights

When a student reaches 18 years old,

he/she is an adult in the state of Tennessee if no legal action is taken. For information on Durable Power Of Attorney (for educational purposes) and/or Conservatorships, contact The Arc of Tennessee at 615-248-5878 (local) or 800-835-7077 (toll free statewide).

Secondary Transition Information, Training & Support

The Arc of Tennessee’s Secondary Transition Project – Training, Information, and Referral 800-835-7077, or 615-215-2065 or 731-559-4187 or go to www.thearctn.org/ and click on Secondary Transition

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents STEP – Training, Information, and Support 800-260-7837 or <http://tnstep.org/>

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder Information and Referral 800-640-4636 or <http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/tnpathfinder/>

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

Tennessee Division of Special Education 888-212-3162 or 615-741-2851 <http://state.tn.us/education/speced/>

The UT Center on Disability and Employment Information, Training, and Support 865-974-9400 or www.cde.tennessee.edu

This list is not exhaustive but is a good place to start. This brochure is not intended to replace the advice of legal counsel. A.5.