

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

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Click on **Secondary Transition**

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

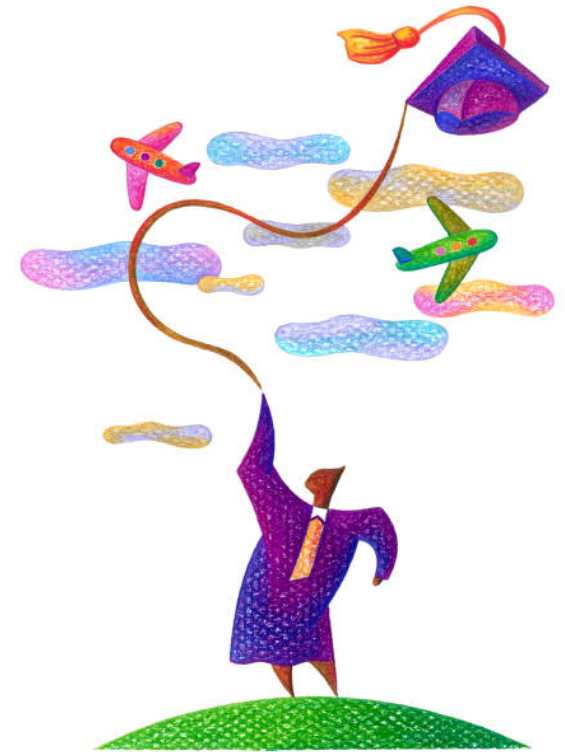
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*The Arc Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.*

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## Understanding the Secondary Transition Process

  
**The Arc**<sup>TM</sup>  
Tennessee

## What is Secondary Transition?

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

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. The Secondary Transition process generally follows these steps:

1. Identify student preferences, interests, and needs, developing the student's vision for the future
2. Present levels 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 they are 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 must address:

- 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
- 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 make changes.

## Evaluate Results

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

Student-Led IEP meetings are a great way to empower students to become self-advocates who practice self-determination.

## Transfer of Rights

In the state of Tennessee, when a student reaches 18 years old, he/she is an adult unless legal action is taken. For information on Durable Power Of Attorney (for educational purposes) and/or Conservatorships, contact The Arc Tennessee at 615-248-5878 (local) or 800-835-7077 (toll free statewide).

## Secondary Transition Information, Training & Support

The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project – Training, Information, Support, and Referral  
800/835-7077, or 615/215-2065 or 731/559-4187 or go to [www.thearctn.org/](http://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/>

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