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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.

The Arc of Tennessee
151 Athens Way, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228

Self-Directed IEPs



**Helping Students learn
Self-Determination and
Self-Advocacy skills
through leading **their** own
IEP meetings**

**The
Arc
of Tennessee**

The Secondary Transition Project

through The Arc of Tennessee helps students, families, and educators understand the Secondary Transition process, see the possibilities for adult life, and become aware of resources available to help make the student's dreams come true.

Secondary Transition is the process of preparing students (14-22) for Adult Life.

The Critical Elements of Secondary Transition are:

- Transition Planning
- Student Involvement
- Family Involvement
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Inclusion, Access and Accountability
- Interagency and Community Services
- Transition Assessment

The transition plan serves as a guide toward successful adult life for students (living, learning, working, and loving life in the community).

During the transition planning process, which is much like a puzzle, there are several pieces of the transition plan that must be reviewed and updated at least annually during the IEP (Individualized Education Plan) team meeting. The pieces of the transition puzzle include:

- The student's Preferences, Interests and Needs
- The Student's Vision for the Future

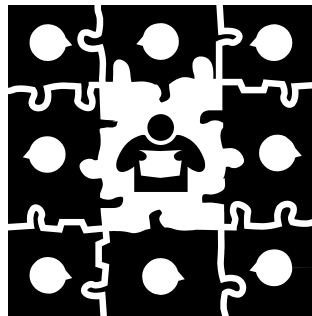
- The Student's Present Level of Educational Performance
- The IEP with Statement of Needed Transition Services
- Implementation of the IEP to this point
- Evaluation of the IEP components

Traditionally, students have not played a leadership role in the transition planning process despite the fact that the process is supposed to be student-centered.

The **Self-Directed IEP** program is a tool that will help students become more involved in their own transition planning process. Self-directed IEPs help students:

- Learn to make their own decisions (Self-Determination)
- Speak up for themselves (Self-Advocacy).
- Take ownership of their own plan's outcomes

Self-Directed IEPs help students move toward adult life in a person centered manner that the **student leads** with assistance as needed.



The Arc of Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project uses Self-Directed IEPs as one of the many tools to help students, families, and educators prepare for the challenges of Secondary Transition.

- **Self-Directed IEPs training** is available in person or via the internet. For more information about the training or to schedule training in your area, contact The Arc of Tennessee.
- **Dr. James Martin's Self-Directed IEP** program is available for loan to collaborative partners across the state.
- Other resources related to Self-Directed IEPs and secondary transition are available on The Arc of Tennessee website at www.thearctn.org/Transitions.php

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