

The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project

<http://www.thearctn.org/Transitions.php>

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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.

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Secondary Transition: An Overview



What is Secondary Transition?

It begins when a student is 14 or younger in Tennessee. The IEP suddenly becomes about the independent adult whom the IEP Team has been working to educate and prepare for life. When the process of Secondary Transition begins, it becomes apparent what all these Individualized Education Program (IEP) Meetings have been about – molding students into productive members of society.



Legal Stuff

In the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA) of 2004 Secondary Transition (summarized) is:

A coordinated set of activities for a child with an IEP that:

Is a results oriented, and focused on improving the functional academic achievement of a student with an IEP, so that s/he can smoothly move from school to being an adult, including further education or vocational training, employment, (appropriate) adult services, independent living, and community participation;

Is based on the individual child's strengths, wants, interests; and,

Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and adult living goals, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.

Transition Planning

It's all about preparing to be an adult, and includes planning what high school courses to take, other learning experiences (like job training), and choices – like where to live, work, and play in the community.

The IEP team, including the family and student, makes this plan. When planning for Secondary Transition IEP Team Meetings, remember to:

- ✓ Attend *all* IEP Team Meetings.
- ✓ Talk with your child's special education teacher before meetings about your concerns. They have lots of information.

- Ask about Secondary Transition possibilities and opportunities at school.



- Find out about appropriate adult service agencies – apply now.



- Get your child's personal documents including, Social Security card, State I.D. or driver's license, and the most recent evaluation report and IEP in your child's file.



- ✓ Help your child know his/her strengths and wants and how to express that.
- ✓ Find out about diploma types and their requirements - discuss with your child.
- ✓ Know admission requirements for post-secondary institution(s) your child is considering.

Transfer of Rights

When a child reaches 18 years old, s/he becomes his/her own person. Parent(s) are no longer the legal guardian(s), unless parent(s) have already taken legal action. (For information on Conservatorships, contact The Arc Tennessee.)

Secondary Transition Information, Support

The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project – Training, Information, and Referral (800)835-7077 (toll-free) or (615)248-5878 (local) or go to

<http://www.thearctn.org/Transitions.php>

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 for Literacy, Education & Employment: Information, Training, and Support (865)974-9400 or <http://clee.utk.edu/>

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