

Child Find

TRANSITION SERVICES

September 15, 2020

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TRANSITION SERVICES

What is Required

Transition services are the coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation. Transition services are based on the individual student's needs, taking into account the student's strengths, preferences, and interests; and includes instruction, related services; community experiences; the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and the acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation, if appropriate. Transition services may be special education, if provided as specially-designed instruction, or a related service, if required to assist the student with a disability to benefit from special education. See [SUPPLEMENTARY AIDS AND SERVICES, SPECIAL EDUCATION, RELATED SERVICES].

Transition planning is done by the ARD Committee and must include the input of the student. If the student does not attend the ARD Committee meeting, the Campus Special Education Personnel must take other steps to ensure the student's preferences and interests are considered during the transition planning. See [ADMISSION, REVIEW, AND DISMISSAL COMMITTEE MEETING] and [ADMISSION, REVIEW, AND DISMISSAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP].

By Age 14

Not later than when the student reaches the age of 14, the ARD Committee must annually consider and, if appropriate, address the following in the student's IEP during transition planning:

- appropriate student involvement in the student's transition to life outside of the public school system;
- appropriate involvement in the student's transition by the student's parent and other persons invited to participate by the parent or the Campus Special Education Personnel (if the student is younger than 18);
- appropriate postsecondary education options, including preparation for postsecondary-level coursework;

- appropriate functional vocational evaluation;
- appropriate employment goals and objectives;
- if the student has reached 18, the availability of age appropriate instructional environments, including community settings or environments that prepare the student for postsecondary education or training, competitive integrated employment, or independent living, in coordination with the adult student's transition goals and objectives;
- appropriate independent living goals and objectives;
- appropriate circumstances for facilitating a referral of a student or the student's parent to a governmental agency for services or public benefits, including a referral to place a student on a waiting list for public benefits; and
- the use and availability of appropriate supplementary aids, services, curricula, and other opportunities to assist the student in developing decision-making skills and supports and services to foster the student's independence and self-determination, including a supported decision-making agreement.

By Age 16

Not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the student turns 16, the ARD Committee must include and update annually the following in a student's IEP during transition planning:

- appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and independent living skills; and
- Transition services, including courses of study needed to assist the student in reaching those postsecondary goals.

By Age 17

Not later than one year before the student's 18th birthday, the Campus Special Education Personnel must comply and provide notification to the student and the student's parent of the transfer of rights to the adult student. See [ADULT STUDENT AND TRANSFER OF RIGHTS].

By Age 18

For an adult student, the ARD Committee must consider and, if appropriate, address involvement in the student's transition and future by the adult student's parent and other

persons, if the parent or other person is invited to participate by the adult student or the Campus Special Education Personnel or has the adult student's consent to participate pursuant to a supported decision-making agreement or other legal document. See [ADULT STUDENT AND TRANSFER OF RIGHTS].

Other Issues Relevant to Transition

When determining the course of study, the ARD Committee must consider the student's graduation plan and post-secondary goals. See [GRADUATION]. In addition, the District must ensure that students with disabilities have access to career and technical education (CTE) classes. When determining placement in a CTE class, the ARD Committee must consider the student's graduation plan, the content of the student's IEP, including the consideration of transition services, and classroom supports. If a participating agency fails to provide the transition services described in the student's IEP, the ARD Committee must identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives set out in the IEP.

Transition and Employment Guide

The District must post the *Texas Transition and Employment Guide* (the "Guide") on the District's website. The ARD Committee will provide written information and, if necessary, assistance to the student or parent regarding how to access the electronic version of the Guide at the first meeting of the student's ARD Committee at which transition is discussed and again at the first ARD Committee meeting at which transition is discussed that occurs after the date on which the Guide is updated. In addition, on request, the Campus Special Education Personnel will provide a printed copy of the Guide to the student or parent.

Additional Procedures

Transition planning provides the focus for the development of the IEP for students age 14 (or younger if deemed appropriate by the ARD Committee) and older. For students with autism, transition planning can be considered at any age. Transition planning is intended to be flexible, dynamic and appropriate. Transition services emphasize the acquisition of functional skills and hands-on knowledge, enabling students to enter the workforce or continue their education or training. Such services also allow students to live as autonomously as possible, given the extent of their disabilities.

The student's individual transition plan should be individually designed and based on the student's interests, strengths, and preferences. Students should be encouraged and coached to advocate for themselves during the transition planning, at the ARD Committee meeting, and in future environments. The transition planning should always include the student and it is preferable that the student attend at least that portion of the ARD meeting that focuses on transition planning. If the student cannot attend, the student's general education teacher (if appropriate), CTE teacher (if appropriate) and special education teacher should collaborate on providing feedback regarding the student's interests,

strengths, and preferences. In addition, a functional vocational evaluation should be conducted, if appropriate, to be considered by the ARD Committee during transition planning.

Transition planning is documented by the ARD Committee on the Transition Supplement/Section of the IEP and should include:

- appropriate measurable postsecondary goals that are annually updated and based upon age appropriate transition assessment;
- transition services, including courses of student, that will reasonably enable the student to meet those postsecondary goals;
- annual IEP goals related to the student's transition service needs;
- evidence that the student was invited to the ARD meeting where transition services are discussed or documentation that the student's input was obtained and considered if the student is unable to attend the ARD meeting; and
- if appropriate, evidence that a representative of any participating agency was invited to the ARD Committee meeting with the prior consent of the parent or adult student.

Campus Special Education Administrator will designate one person on the campus responsible for contacting the outside agencies that are identified as part of the student's transition plan to invite them to the ARD meeting and to gather information regarding the agency's services for the ARD Committee to consider during transition planning.

Evidence of Implementation

- ARD/IEP
- Transition Supplement/Section of ARD/IEP
- Documentation of Student Participation in Transition Planning
- Course of Study
- Transition/Vocational Assessments
- Contacts with Outside Agencies
- Document Acknowledging Receipt of *Texas Transition and Employment Guide*

Resources

[The Legal Framework for the Child Centered Special Education Process: Transition Services Framework - Region 18](#)

[Secondary Transition Guidance \(TEA\)](#)

[Texas Transition and Employment Guide](#)

[Texas Transitions Network \(TEA\)](#)

[Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities \(OCR\)](#)

[OSERS Questions and Answers on Secondary Transition \(2011\)](#)

[SPEDEX - Secondary Transition in Texas](#)

CITATIONS

34 CFR 300.43(a)-(b), 300.320(b), 300.321(b)(2), 300.324; Texas Education Code 28.025, 29.011, 29.0111, 29.0112(e); Texas Estates Code Ch. 1357; 19 TAC 75.1023, 89.1055(j)-(l)