

## Transition

Transition is a lifelong, on-going planning process for parents, students, and families. Transition doesn't take place in a building; it happens in the community with home, school, and agency collaboration. Transition will look different for each individual depending on their hopes and dreams. Policies must be changed to support flexibility.

Self-determination and self-advocacy should be central to individual service planning and delivery for each student. The goals and values of the student and, when appropriate, his/her family must determine the type and source of services. Person-centered planning process should be used.

Every student should have an Educational Development Plan (EDP) completed by 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The EDP should guide future educational decisions and can then be reviewed and updated as needed. The Transition Plan is based on information from the student and the EDP. The IEP/Transition Plan must be aligned with the EDP. The EDP should guide the development of goals and objectives at the age appropriate time.

Full inclusion in one's community is the focus of transition. This includes competitive employment, one's own home, and participation in all aspects of community life. Every student should exit school with one or more of these:

- a job at which they are successful and will continue, or
- post-secondary education or training plans, or
- a microbusiness enterprise

Every student should exit school with the ability to access and use community resources of their choice, e.g., library, laundromat, bus system, health club, place of worship, movies.

All students must have access to community resources that are available to peers of the same age. For example, a 22-year-old wanting to continue education with peers must have access to colleges, vocational centers, adult education and training programs and the supports and accommodations necessary for success in those settings.

Planning may take place while in school, but we must understand that schools need to include community wide agencies, e.g., Community Mental Health, Michigan Rehabilitation services, Community College.

When planned for and properly executed, Transition Planning will provide future community success for everyone. All students deserve high expectations.

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