

## THE ARC MICHIGAN POSITION STATEMENT ON Transition to Adulthood

The Arc Michigan believes that 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. One of the milestones in the life of a student is the transition from school to adulthood. Transition starts through ongoing conversations with students, families, educators, and others who support the student. Policies must be changed to support flexibility to meet this stage in transition.

Every student should have an Educational Development Plan (EDP) completed by 8th grade. The EDP should guide future educational decisions, reflect high expectations and be reviewed and updated as needed. The Individualized Education Program (IEP) transition planning process uses information from both the student and the EDP. The EDP should guide the development of post-secondary goals in the areas of education, training, employment and independent living.

Self-determination and self-advocacy should be central to individual service planning and delivery for each student. The person-centered planning process should be used wherein the goals and values of the student and, when appropriate, the student's family will determine the type and source of supports and/or services that are needed.

All students must have equal access to community resources, competitive employment, and post-secondary education opportunities of their choice that are available to peers of the same age. This includes colleges, vocational training, adult education and programs, libraries, transportation systems, fitness centers, places of worship, etc. The supports and accommodations necessary for success in the above settings should be accessible for all students.

Transition planning takes place while students are in school and must facilitate connections to community agencies that will provide services, supports and accommodations such as Michigan Rehabilitation Services, community mental health organizations, and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Every student should exit school with a skill set developed through the IEP transition planning process to progress from supervised learning to self-directed post school activities.

Successful transition planning leads to full inclusion in one's community, with opportunities for competitive employment, living in or owning one's own home, and participating in all aspects of community life.

**Adopted by: The Arc Michigan Board of Directors, February 12, 2022**

