

# TRANSITION SERVICES FOR 18-21 YEAR OLDS

## WHAT ARE TRANSITION SERVICES? THE LAW:

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IDEA 2004: (§300.43) **Transition Services** -The term `transition services' means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that- (A) is designed to be a **results-oriented** process, that is focused on **improving the academic and functional achievement** of the child with a disability to **facilitate the child'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;

(B) is **based on the individual child's needs**, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests;

(C) includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the **development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives**, and, when appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and **functional vocational evaluation**.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR 18-21 SERVICES?

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Students receiving special education services who have an IEP (Individualized Educational Program) are able to access 18-21 services through their school districts. They may have met the minimum requirements for graduation in their districts, but have ongoing transition needs identified in their IEPs, by the IEP Team, and based on assessment data. Students who have earned the minimum graduation requirements may participate in a "social graduation" but cannot accept high school diplomas to receive 18-21 services (refer to local district policies for social graduation information). FAPE (free and appropriate education) ends once a diploma has been issued to a student.

Students who have IEPs but leave the traditional school settings to attain their GEDs (General Educational Development) may continue to access special education services, including 18-21 services, in their home school district.

## WHAT IS SOCIAL GRADUATION?

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Social graduation allows students who will continue to receive services the opportunity to participate in the traditional graduation ceremony with peers. However, an official diploma will not be granted to those students until they exit K-12 Education. Transcripts will remain open as students continue to earn credits toward diplomas.

## Additional Tips

- Start **communicating** about post-school options, linkages and the end of FAPE with the introduction and development of the transition IEP, or sooner, if appropriate.
- **Plan ahead** with younger students and their parents for eligibility requirements to access long term supports, i.e. Social Security, Guardianship, and Community Centered Board (CCB).



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**REQUIREMENTS FOR 18-21 SERVICES (ALIGNED WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STUDENTS WITH IEPs):**

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- Must be instructional, standards driven and identify requirements for attendance/performance
- Must be part of the *individualized* transition continuum
- Must not have an arbitrary purpose or point of entry/exit
- Must identify transition needs/goals, outcomes and agency linkages through the Individual Education Program (IEP) Process
- Must focus on transition needs aligned with postsecondary goals (i.e. college, employment, and independent living supports)
- Must provide at least 90 hours of contact time/instruction or purchase services per semester to receive 50% Per Pupil Revenue (PPR)
- Must provide at least 360 hours of contact time/instruction or purchase services per semester to receive 100% PPR
- Must create and maintain a schedule of direct services corresponding to hours of service identified on IEP
- Must award some credit - credit must transfer to school transcripts
- Exit determination prior to reaching maximum age is determined by issuance of a diploma (if earned) or through an IEP Eligibility Review (§ 300.305)

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**BEST PRACTICES TO CONSIDER FOR 18-21 SERVICES:**

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- Should be community-based with a focus on connections to adult resources and/or services, as well as postsecondary education and/or employment opportunities.
- Should clearly identify course and activity objectives aligned with individual transition needs and goals
- Should provide flexibility for school and community experiences based on individual preferences, interests, strengths and needs aligned with postsecondary goals
- Should include clearly outlined processes for phasing out services and supports as well as facilitating linkages to adult services and/or post-school environments

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**WHERE CAN I LOCATE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?**

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[Technical Assistance- October Count](#)

[Technical Assistance- Transition Planning](#)

[Technical Assistance- Transfers for Students Receiving 18-21 Services](#)

The contents of this handout were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. However, the content does not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

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