Transitioning from High School to College or Employment for Young People with Disabilities

What Librarians, Other Professionals, Families, and Students Need to Know
Pathfinder Available

- This webinar was adapted from the Talking Book Program Disability Information & Referral Center’s “Guide to Transition Resources”: www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/dirc/transitionguide.html
Definition of Transition

- The dictionary defines transition as: “movement, passage, or change from one position, state, stage, subject, concept, etc., to another”
- The keyword is “change”
- We are in transition our whole lives!
Change

What we are talking about today is transitioning from high school to either college or employment.
LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
LIVING WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY

THE EARLIER YOU START
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE,
THE LESS STRESS YOU
EXPERIENCE WHEN SENIOR
YEAR LOOMS
Age?

- At what age do you start talking to students about transition?
- Most experts agree that when a student enters high school, usually around 14 years old, is when the topic of transition is introduced.
LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL
LIVING WITH A DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW
Who is involved?

• The student
• Parents / families / caregivers
• The school counselor
• Teachers
• School librarians
• Other professionals (rehab counselors, therapists, social workers, doctors, etc)
Types of disabilities

• Physical / Mobility: e.g. MD, MS, CP, SCI
• Vision Impairments: e.g. Glaucoma, RP
• Hearing Impairments: e.g. Deaf / HH
• Learning: e.g. Dyslexia, ADD, ADHD
• Intellectual: e.g. Down Syndrome, Fragile X
• Emotional / Behavioral: e.g. Autism, Tourette
National Resources - Education

• Association on Higher Education & Disability: www.ahead.org
• Do-It: www.washington.edu/doit
• HEATH Resource Center: www.heath.gwu.edu
• National Center on Secondary Education & Transition: www.ncset.org
• National Pacer Center on Transition & Employment: www.pacer.org/transition
Education Resources Part 2

• Going to College: www.going-to-college.org

• Transition Coalition: http://transitioncoalition.org/

• Practical Guide for People with Disabilities Who Want to Go to College: http://tucollaborative.org/pdfs/education/College_Guide.pdf
Education Resources Part 3

• Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities: www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/partnership.html

• Simply Said: Introducing Vocational Rehabilitation Services: www.youtube.com/watch?v=vT9pKlcTQ Mg
National Resources - Employment

• Equal Employment Opportunity Commission: www.eeoc.gov/
• Job Accommodation Network: http://askjan.org/
• Office of Disability Employment Policy: www.dol.gov/odep/index.htm
• Work Support: www.worksupport.com
State Resources

• Coalition of Texans with Disabilities: www.txdisabilities.org/

• Disability Rights Texas: www.disabilityrightstx.org/

• Easter Seals: www.easterseals.com/connect-locally/?state=TX: Offices in Austin, Bellaire, Bryan, Fort Worth, McAllen, and San Antonio
State Resources Part 2


• Texas Education Agency: [http://tea.texas.gov/](http://tea.texas.gov/)

• Transition in Texas: [www.transitionintexas.org](http://www.transitionintexas.org)
State Resources Part 3

- Texas Workforce Commission:
  [www.twc.texas.gov](http://www.twc.texas.gov): Vocational Rehabilitation:
  [www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-youth-students)

- Texas Reality Check:
  [www.texasrealitycheck.com/](http://www.texasrealitycheck.com/)
Web Sites for Teenagers

• Friends of Quinn: www.friendsofquinn.com: LD
• I Am Norm: http://iamnorm.com: ID
• I Belong: www.ibelong.ca: ID
• Starlight: www.starlight.org/: Chronic illness
• Strength of Us: http://strengthofus.org: MI
• Voices for Hope: http://www.voices4hope.net/: MI
Trend Toward College for Young People with Intellectual Disabilities

www.thinkcollege.net

Student with Down syndrome achieves one of his lifelong dreams getting accepted to college.
Resources for Specific Disabilities

- MDA Transition Site: http://transitions.mda.org
- PEPNET online: www.pepnet.org: for Deaf / Hard of Hearing
- Project Eye to Eye: http://eyetoeyenational.org: For LD
- LD Online College Resources: www.ldonline.org/indepth/college
Specific Disabilities Part 2

- LD Online Transition: [www.ldonline.org/indepth/transition](http://www.ldonline.org/indepth/transition)
- Transition Competencies (article): [www.tsbvi.edu/seehear/spring00/makingit.htm](http://www.tsbvi.edu/seehear/spring00/makingit.htm)
- TSBVI Exit Program (Experiences in Transition): [www.tsbvi.edu/exit](http://www.tsbvi.edu/exit)
Checklist for Applying to College
From *Quest* Magazine

I. Research:

• Begin at least during junior year of high school.

• Consult magazines, books, and web sites

• Request college viewbooks

• Attend college fairs and open houses
II. Make Contact:

• Contact the Disability Services offices at colleges

• Ask about what documentation is required

• Make sure you are familiar with the nature and scope of your disability
Checklist Part 3

III. Tours:

• Request tours through the Disability Services Office

• Scrutinize the accessibility of the campus

• Be sure to visit buildings you know you will need to use
Checklist Part 4

IV. Personal Care Attendants (PCA):

• Not all colleges assist with finding PCA
• Interview carefully
• If you hire non-students, check on residence hall policies
• Older students are often more reliable
• Always have a back-up plan
Checklist Part 5

• **Ways to find attendants:**
  • Disability Services Office
  • Independent Living Centers
  • Class or residence hall bulletin boards

• **Plus (my ideas):**
  • Hiring friends / family
  • Web sites: Care.com, Craigslist
Checklist Part 6

V. Remember:

• Balance accessibility needs with academic program interests

• **Self-advocacy is very important!**

• Accessibility is not uniform at all colleges or universities
Topics Related to Transition

- Assistive Technology
- Financial Information
- Health Care
- Independent Living
- Mentoring / Shadowing
- Personal Assistance Services
- Reasonable Accommodation
- Self-determination
Assistive Technology

• RESNA Technical Assistance Project: www.resna.org

• Texas Technology Access Program: http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/: Demonstration centers and a “try before you buy” equipment loan program

• Contact the DIRC for a copy of the AT Funding Guide – national and Texas resources
Financial Information

- ABLE Accounts: www.ablenrc.org/about/what-are-able-accounts
- FinAid: www.finaid.org/otheraid/disabled.phtml
- Scholarship list: https://www.disability.gov/scholarships-specifically-students-disabilities/
- Social Security Disability: https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/
Health Care

- Medicare: [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov)
Independent Living

• Guide to Transitioning to Independent Living: www.new-horizons.org/gdeind.html

• Texas Centers for Independent Living: www.ilru.org/projects/cil-net/cil-center-and-association-directory-results/TX
Mentoring / Shadowing

• Disability Mentoring Day:  
  [website link]

Usually coincides with National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October.
Personal Assistance Services

- Toolkit for Managing Personal Assistance Services: [www.ncwd-youth.info/PAS-Toolkit](http://www.ncwd-youth.info/PAS-Toolkit)

In Texas:

- Coalition of Texans with Disabilities Consumer Directed Services: [www.txdisabilities.org/CDS-Division](http://www.txdisabilities.org/CDS-Division)

- Department of Aging and Disability Services: [www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/cas.html](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services/faqs-fact/cas.html)
Reasonable Accommodation

In Employment:
• From the EEOC: 
  www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/internal/reasonable_acc ommodation.cfm

In Higher Education:
• From Disability Rights California: 
  www.disabilityrightsca.org/pubs/530901.pdf
Accommodations Part 2

For more information contact:

• Disability Services offices at colleges
• ADA Information Line through the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ): 800-514-0301
In Texas: Southwest ADA Center:
  800-949-4232, www.southwestada.org/
National ADA Network: http://adata.org/
Signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act
Self-Determination

• From the Institute for Community Inclusion: www.communityinclusion.org/article.php?article_id=16

• From NCSET: www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=962

Selected Disability Information & Referral Center (DIRC) Books

• Going to College: Expanding Opportunities for People with Disabilities, 2005

• Guiding Your Teenager with Special Needs through the Transition from School to Work Life: Tools for Parents, 2008

• Life beyond the Classroom: Transition Strategies for Young People with Disabilities, 2006

• Listening to the Experts: Students with Disabilities Speak Out, 2006
DIRC Books Part 2

• *Pathways to Successful Transition for Youth with Disabilities: A Developmental Process*, 2008
• *The Personal Care Attendant Guide: the Art of Finding, Keeping, or Being One*, 2007
• *The Power to Spring Up: Postsecondary Education Opportunities for Students with Significant Disabilities*, 2009
• *Self-Advocacy Skills for Students with Learning Disabilities: Making it Happen in College and Beyond*, 2007
DIRC Books Part 3

• Think College: Postsecondary Education Options for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, 2009
• The Transition Handbook: Strategies High School Teachers Use That Work! 2000
• Transition to Adulthood: A Resource for Assisting Young People with Emotional or Behavioral Difficulties, 2000
• Unlocking Potential: College and Other Choices for People with LD and AD/HD, 2000
DIRC Videos

• “College Success for Students with Learning Challenges,” 2008
• “Optimizing Different Learning Styles,” 2004
• “Teens and Disabilities,” 2007
Contact

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