

Transition Step-By-Step: From Special Education To Adulthood

Youth 12-15 Years Old

- Youth and counselor create Educational Development Plan (EDP) in 7th grade, to explore interests and career goals, and to plan high school course of study.
- EDP is reviewed and revised every year after 7th grade.
- Youth learns basic chores and self-care at home.
- Youth learns basic self-advocacy skills to express preferences and needs.
- Youth has a Social Security card and a medical alert tag, if needed.
- Youth may receive Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) from vocational rehabilitation (VR) starting at age 14.
- VR contact information:
 - Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), 1-800-605-6722
 - Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP), 1-800-292-4200



Youth 16-17 Years Old

- Transition planning is included in IEPs at age 16.
- Youth is invited to every IEP where transition planning is discussed.
- By 17th birthday, school team explains to youth that they will become an adult at age 18 and will have certain legal rights.
- Youth has a state-issued photo ID or driver's license.
 - Michigan Secretary of State: <https://www.michigan.gov/sos>
- VR assists with placement in part-time paid work experience.



Adults 18 Years Old

- Adult and family choose a path to help the adult make decisions, such as a supported decision-making agreement or power of attorney.
- Adults may apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.
 - Social Security website: <https://www.ssa.gov/>
 - Medicaid website: <https://newmibridges.michigan.gov/>
- After Medicaid approval, adults may enroll in Community Mental Health (CMH) services.
 - CMH agencies in Michigan: <https://cmham.org/membership/cmhsp-directory/>
- Male adults must apply for Selective Service (military draft) at age 18.
 - Selective Service System: <https://www.sss.gov/register/>



Adults 19-25 Years Old

- Adult, CMH supports coordinator, and family identify services to support skill-building and increased community participation.
- Adult pursues post-secondary education, such as college, vocational training, or skill-building program.
- Adult participates in recreational activities and employment.

Adults 26+ Years Old

- Adult, CMH supports coordinator, and family identify appropriate housing.
- Adult continues to work toward post-secondary goals with CMH, VR, and community connections.

