


## Transition: What You Need To Know

Karen Wang



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## Agenda



- Define transition planning and why it's important
- Review the transition planning process
- Identify action items to do at home
- Review options for life after school
- Share community resources



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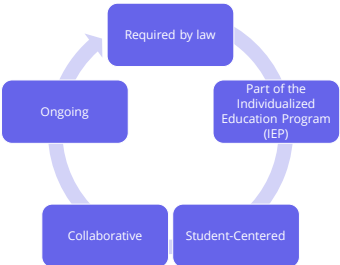


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## What is transition planning?

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## Educational Development Plan (EDP)

- **Who:** Every student with help from counselor
- **What:** Explore interests and career goals; connection between school and career
- **When:** Middle school, created in 7th grade, reviewed and revised every year afterward
- **How:** Assessments and inventories
- **Why:** Planning high school course of study



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## Action Items: before age 14

- Get a Social Security card
- Practice with public transportation
- Medical alert bracelet or necklace
- Community activities
- Identify strengths, preferences, interests and needs (SPIN)



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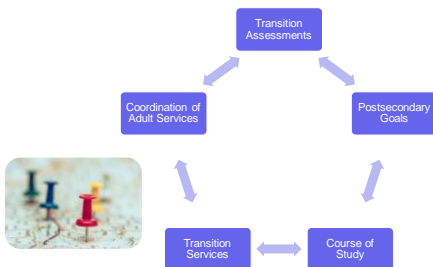
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## The Transition Planning Process



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## Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): The Law

Transition plans MUST include:

Data from transition assessments

Measurable postsecondary goals

Services to reach those goals

Information about transfer of rights



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## Action Item: Self-Advocacy

Student will be invited to any IEP meeting where transition planning is to be discussed.

### Before the meeting

- Presume competence
- Dignity of risk
- Disclosure of disability
- Talk about interests and goals
- Prepare materials
- Practice
- Invite others

### During the meeting

- Share strengths and interests
- Present and read from materials
- Ask questions
- Express opinions
- Lead



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## Transition Assessments

Work Samples

Conversations with Student and Family

Observations

Interest Inventories

Standardized Assessments



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### Action Items: at age 16

- State-issued photo ID or driver's license
- Disability parking permit, if needed
- Review and update transition goals
- Job training in the community
- Explore part-time or summer employment, if appropriate
- Graduation Plan

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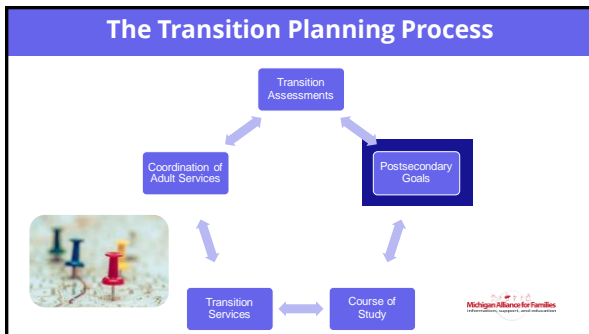
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### Postsecondary Goals

*Long-term goals that are reviewed annually at the IEP*

**Goals must be written in four areas:**

- Education
- Training
- Employment
- Independent Living, where appropriate

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## Postsecondary Goal Examples

*Based on the student's Strengths, Preferences, Interests and Needs*

Education/Training	Employment	Independent Living
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend a four-year college for business management</li> <li>On-the-job training at Detroit Metro Airport</li> <li>Skill-building program to learn time management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work at the hospital with a job coach</li> <li>Part-time job at the pet store while attending community college, then work full-time as a vet tech</li> </ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dress and feed oneself with assistance</li> <li>Rent an apartment, pay bills, schedule appointments, access community services by using public transportation</li> </ul>





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## What Is "Independent Living?"

**Principles:**

- Choice
- Control
- Freedom
- Equality

**What it looks like:**

- Apartment with support staff
- Shared housing with chosen roommates
- Room at parent's house
- Choosing services that fit personal needs
- Control over everyday decisions, such as grocery shopping, medical appointments, housekeeping, friendships, etc.
- Freedom to participate in community activities
- Equal access to opportunities
- Removal of barriers





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## Action Item: Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services

**Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) start at age 14**

Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-800-605-6722</li> <li>MRS-CustomerAssistance@michigan.gov</li> </ul>
Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1-800-292-4200</li> </ul>
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Youth Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michigan Works!</li> <li>1-800-285-9675</li> </ul>





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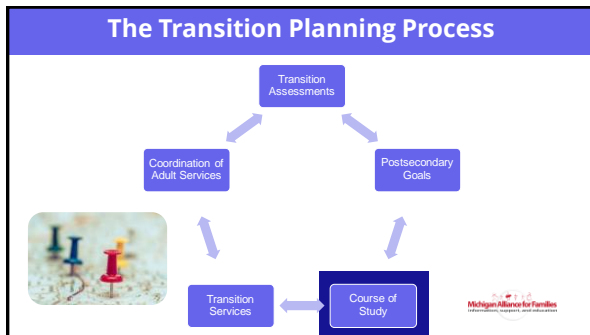
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### Course of Study

**Exit with a diploma:**

- Michigan Merit Curriculum
- Personal Curriculum
- Extra time may be added for students with IEPs
- Career and technical education

**Exit without a diploma:**

- "Certificate of Completion"
- No statewide curriculum
- Education to age 26
- Career and technical education

***Strengths  
Preferences  
Interests  
Needs***

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### Action Item: Dignity of Risk

Every person learns by making choices that could have negative consequences and by experiencing those consequences. Every person has the right to make personal decisions and to decide how to achieve personal goals.

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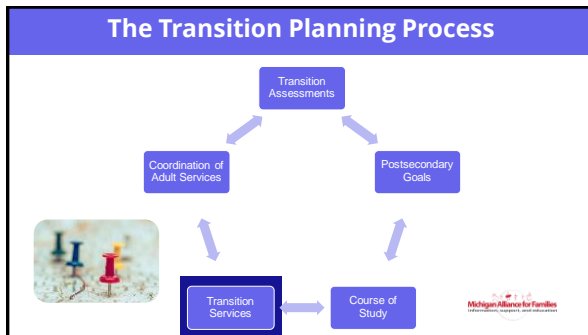
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### Transition Services

*Activities that help a student achieve postsecondary goals*



**Services must be:**

- Based on student strengths, preferences, interests and needs
- Activities that the student will complete, with support from school and community agencies
- Composed of skills, experiences, opportunities and connections
- "A results-oriented process"



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### Transition Services Examples

Education	Training	Employment	Independent Living
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruction/modeling for self-advocacy in classroom</li> <li>• Direct instruction for math and/or reading comprehension</li> <li>• Take a college tour</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study skills</li> <li>• Social skills for employability</li> <li>• Practice requesting accommodation</li> <li>• Apprenticeship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referral to vocational rehabilitation</li> <li>• Paid work experience</li> <li>• Learn to follow a visual schedule</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Memorize phone number</li> <li>• Master the use of adaptive switches on appliances to cook meals</li> <li>• Practical math skills</li> </ul>

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## Age of Majority

### Transfer of Rights

- Schools must tell students that when they turn 18, they are an adult and have certain rights
- This must happen on or before the student's 17th birthday

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## Student Rights at Age 18

### The right to...

Give permission for testing

Invite anyone they choose to the IEP meeting



Provide input into the development of their IEP

Access school records

Disagree with the IEP team

Give permission to share records with outside agencies

Students always have the right to attend their own IEP...at any age!

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## Student Responsibilities at Age 18

State-issued photo ID

Register to vote

Males register with the Selective Service



Control over medical decisions

Control over financial decisions

Control over educational decisions

Self-disclosure

Identify trustworthy people

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## Action Item: Manage the Paper Trail

### Before Age 18:

- Birth Certificate
- Social Security card
- IQ test, when appropriate
- Most recent IEP
- Multi-disciplinary evaluations
- Physician's statement on the nature of the disability

### At Age 18:

- Power of attorney, **even if you are considering guardianship**
- Residential lease
- List of assets in student's name
- Parents' names removed from student assets



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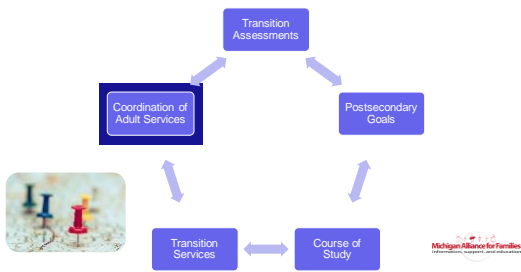
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## The Transition Planning Process



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## Alternatives to Guardianship

Self-Determination: the **process** by which a person controls their own life

Supported  
decision-  
making

Power of  
Attorney

Representative  
Payee (for  
Social Security)

Self-Advocacy begins with SPIN!



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## What is SSI?

### Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

- Income-based
- Proof of disability
- Lack of financial resources due to disability
- Pays for food, shelter, personal expenses
- Will be automatically enrolled in Medicaid, if not already enrolled
- Standard monthly amount



### Retirement, Survivors, Disability Insurance (RSDI)

- Insurance program for people who pay into the plan through payroll taxes
- Amount is based on work credits
- Recipients will be automatically enrolled in Medicare after 24 months



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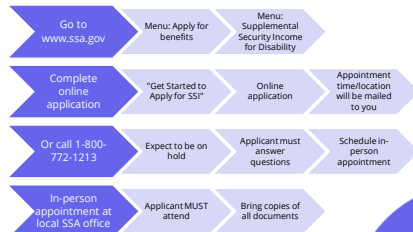
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## Action Item: Applying for SSI



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## "Dos and Don'ts" of SSI

### Do:

- Apply for SSI and Medicaid
- Document food and shelter expenses
- Provide physician's statement about the nature of the disability
- Schedule an in-person appointment
- Encourage the applicant to participate in process
- Appeal if you're denied

### Do NOT:

- Apply for RSDI
- Apply before age 18
- Maintain assets above \$2,000
- Include parents' assets



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### Frequently Asked Questions about SSI

- Is my full-time student eligible for SSI?
- How does paid employment affect SSI?
- What if the recipient doesn't spend the full amount each month?
- How do I document expenses?
- What if my application is rejected?



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### What Is Medicaid?

- Health care coverage for low-income individuals
- Also covers Community Mental Health (CMH) Services
- Jointly funded by state and federal governments
- Programs are administered by the state - benefits vary from state to state
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients are automatically eligible for Medicaid
- May be used as primary or secondary health insurance
- Michigan Enrolls: 1-800-975-7630
- Beneficiary Helpline: 1-800-642-3195 or [beneficiarysupport@michigan.gov](mailto:beneficiarysupport@michigan.gov)



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### Action Item: Make Sure Medicaid is Active!

- Eligibility on 18th birthday
- Social Security automatically enrolls SSI recipients in Medicaid
  - *This may take longer than six months*
- If not already enrolled in Medicaid:
  - Online Medicaid application at [www.michigan.gov/mibridges](http://www.michigan.gov/mibridges)
- Medicaid recipients are eligible for community mental health services
- Primary or secondary



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### What are Community Mental Health (CMH) Services?

- Services and supports for adults with disabilities
- Covered by Medicaid through the community mental health system

Covered Medicaid services may include:

- Supports coordination
- Community Living Supports (paid staff)
- Respite services
- Transportation
- Skill building
- Peer-to-peer support
- Crisis Intervention
- Supported/integrated employment
- Person-centered planning
- Residential services



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### Action Item: Applying for Community Mental Health (CMH) Services

- Medicaid must be active BEFORE applying
- No online application
- Visit website for Community Mental Health Association of Michigan, [www.cmham.org](http://www.cmham.org)
- Select "Membership"
- Select "CMHSP Directory"
- Scroll down to select the access phone number (non-crisis services) for your local area
- Call the access line for your local area on the list
- Access staff will ask screening questions before scheduling an appointment
- You will choose a supports coordination agency



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### Additional supports

- Ask about supports for postsecondary goals
- Request recommendations whenever possible from the medical team, school team, supports coordinator, public library, etc.
- Agency representatives can be invited to IEP meeting

- Michigan Combined Application Project (MICAP)
- Home Help/Community Health Automated Medicaid Processing System (CHAMPS)
- Transportation
- Habilitation Supports Waiver ("Hab")
- Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Account
- JobCorps.gov
- Self-Advocacy training through Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute (MI-DDI)



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## Life after High School

*Multiple Approaches*

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## Summary of Adult Services

*Loosely connected supports for different areas of life*



- Financial: SSI and Medicaid
- Housing: CMH
- Food: MiCAP, MiBridges
- Transportation: public transportation or Medicaid
- Skill Building: CMH
- Education: trade school, college, Disability Network
- Employment: MRS or BSBP
- Recreation: Parks & Rec, public library, clubs, community organizations, schools, non-profits

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## Action Item: Develop Community Relationships

Skill Building Program	Supported or Integrated Employment	Community Participation
AKA "day programs"	Through VR or a vocational non-profit	Social skills and building relationships
Focused on skill development, not immediate employment	Identify welcoming workplaces	Recreational activities
Referral from supports coordinator	Job development and coaching	Maintain health and safety
	Transportation	



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### 5 Year Goals...10 Year Goals...20 Year Goals

Life skills	
Education: GED, vocational training, college	
Creative housing	
Insurance decision at age 26	
Estate planning	
"What if?" scenarios	
Keep "SPIN"ning	



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### Resources



- Michigan Alliance For Families  
• [michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition](https://michiganallianceforfamilies.org/transition)
- The Arc's Center for Future Planning  
• [futureplanning.thearc.org](https://futureplanning.thearc.org)
- I'm Determined  
• [imetermined.org](https://imetermined.org)
- PACER Center  
• [pacer.org/transition](https://pacer.org/transition)
- Think College  
• [thinkcollege.net](https://thinkcollege.net)

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### Questions



800-552-4821  
[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

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