

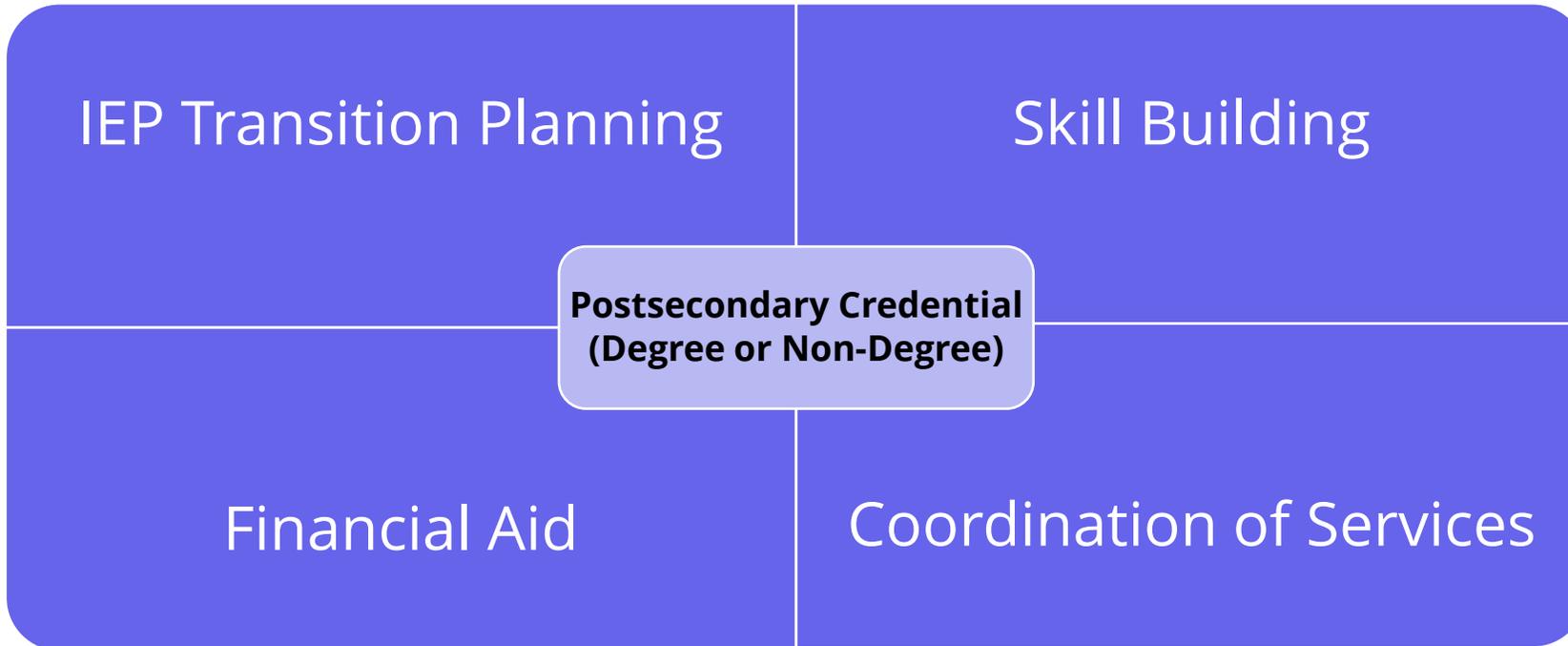
College Planning with an IEP

Karen Wang, Transition Specialist

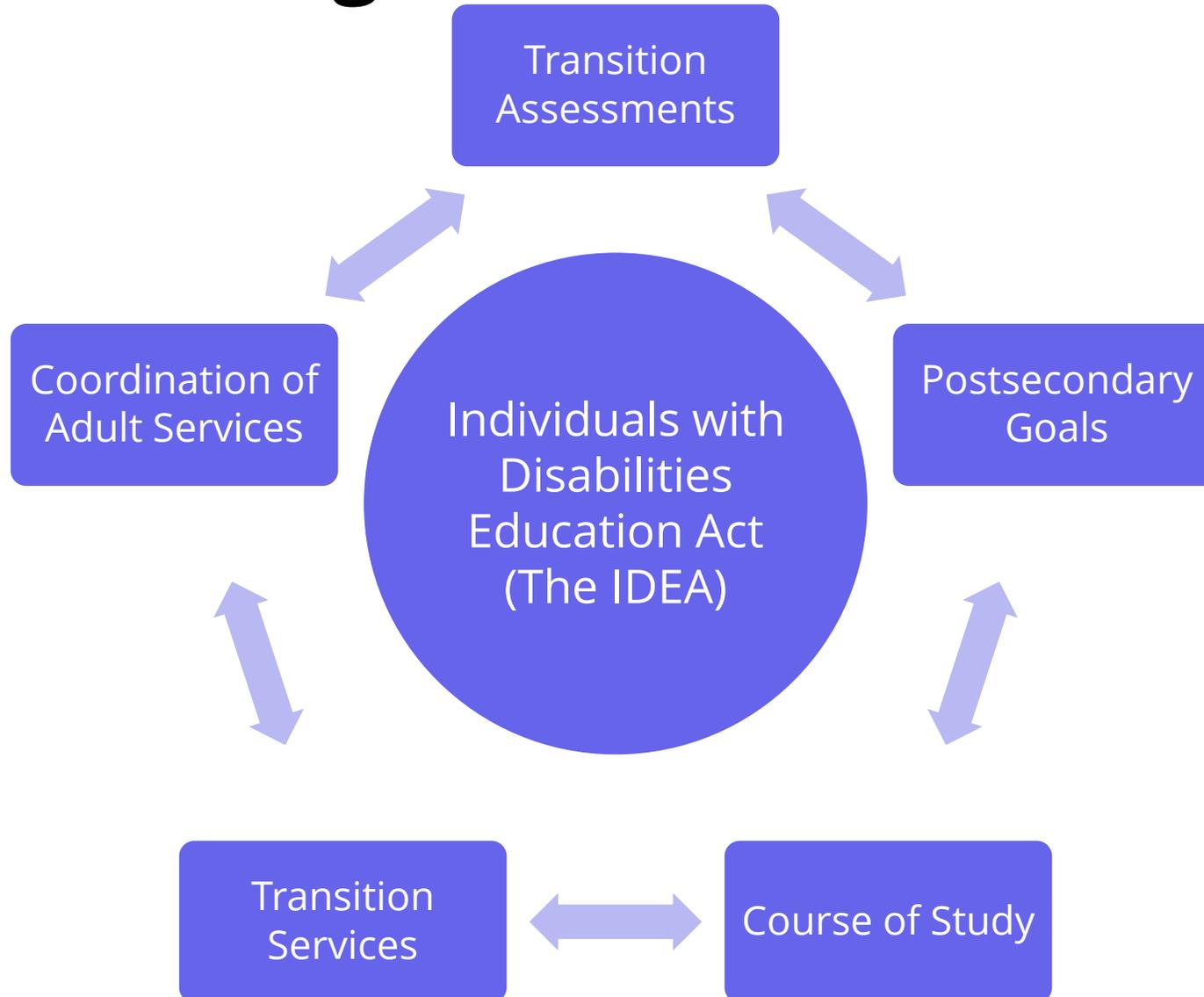


Yes, college is possible.

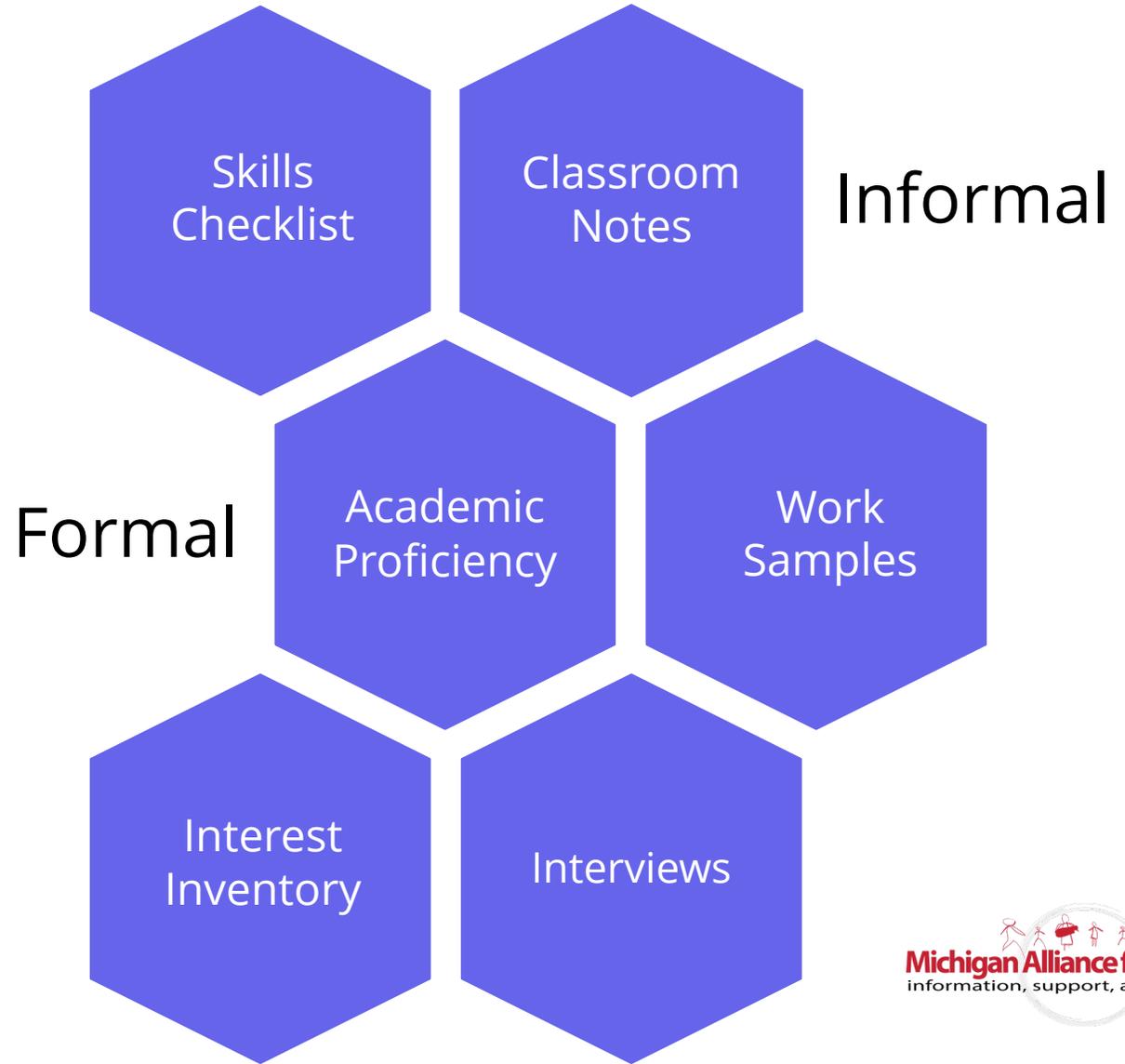
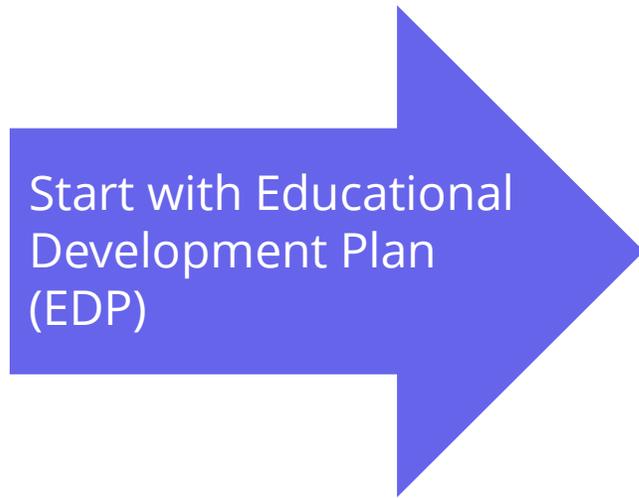
But...how?



Individualized Education Program (IEP): Transition Planning



Transition Assessments



Postsecondary Goals

Education
and Training

Student
Input

Independent
Living

Employment



High School Diploma

- Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)
- Personal Curriculum (PC)

- **Apprenticeship**
- **Professional Certificate**
- **Associate Degree**
- **Bachelor's Degree**

All Students with IEPs

- IEP Transition Planning
- Strengths, Preferences, Interests, Needs (SPIN)
- General Education
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)



Certificate of Completion

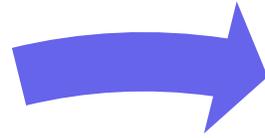
- Modified curriculum

- **18-26 Transition Program**
- **Non-Degree Program**
- **Apprenticeship**
- **Professional Certificate**

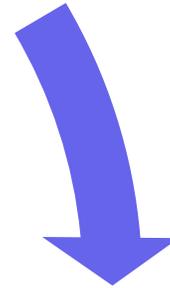
Course of Study with an IEP

Transition Services

Strengths,
preferences,
interests, needs



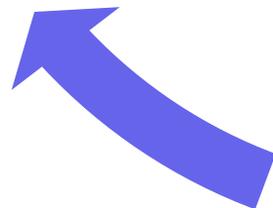
School, family
and outside
agencies



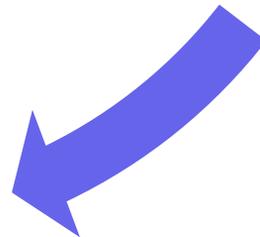
Preparation for
postsecondary
goals



"A results-
oriented
process"



Skills,
activities,
connections



Age of Majority: Transfer of Rights

Age 17

- Discussion at school
- Required transition service for students with IEPs
- On or before the student's 17th birthday

Age 18

- Legal age of adults in Michigan
- Adults have the right to make their own decisions
- Legal, financial, medical, educational



Supported Decision-Making

Every adult has the right to make decisions and to be treated with dignity.

Long-term
plan

Help from
family,
friends,
professionals

Formal or
informal tool

Alternative to
guardianship

Examples:

- ✓ Power of Attorney
- ✓ Patient Advocate
- ✓ Person-Centered Planning
- ✓ Supported Decision-Making Agreement
- ✓ Representative Payee (Social Security)



I speak up



I understand



I make things right

Self-Advocacy Skills

Coordination with Adult Services

- College students who have disabilities may be eligible for:
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Medicaid
 - Community Mental Health services, including support staff
 - Children's Special Health Care services
 - Food benefits
 - Vocational Rehabilitation services, **including tuition support**
 - Center for Independent Living (CIL) services
- Representatives of these agencies can be invited to the IEP
- Helping to apply for services can be an IEP Transition Service

Coordination with Adult Services: IEP Example #1

Team discussion BEFORE the IEP: Parker will turn 18 next month, and will earn a high school diploma in June. Parker already receives Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) through MRS, including a paid summer work experience, and has already applied to in-state universities. Parker needs help understanding how to apply for Social Security and community mental health services at the age of majority.

There was a need to invite a community agency representative likely to provide or pay for transition services.

Consent was obtained.

Date: **November 7**

Consent was not obtained.

Reason: _____

Did the community agency representative attend the IEP?

Yes

No

Coordination with Adult Services: IEP Example #2

Team discussion BEFORE the IEP: Jamal is a 20 year old student in an ISD transition program. Jamal is interested in working in a health care setting. Last summer, MRS placed Jamal in a paid work experience with a job coach at a hospital as a patient transporter. The local community college offers an 8 week program for a Certified Nursing Aide (CNA).

There was a need to invite a community agency representative likely to provide or pay for transition services.

Consent was obtained. Date: **September 23**

Consent was not obtained. Reason: _____

Did the community agency representative attend the IEP?

Yes

No

There is no IEP in college. But...

Civil Rights Protections

Americans with Disabilities Act

Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Eligibility Process

Self-disclosure

Documentation

Reasonable Accommodations



Degree vs. Non-Degree Programs

Degree

- 2 years: Associate Degree
- 4 years: Bachelor's Degree
- Postgraduate: Master's Degree, M.D., J.D., etc.

Non-Degree

- Life Skills Program
- Professional Certificate
- Career Credential

Non-Degree Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities



- [ThinkCollege.net](https://www.ThinkCollege.net)
- Life Skills Instruction
- General Education classes
- Residential or Commuter
- Out-of-pocket expense

Professional Certificates

Examples:

- Business Technician
- Medical Assistant
- Certified Mechanic
- Graphic Artist/Printer
- Cosmetologist



- Focused Study
- Job Credential
- Community College or 4 Year University
- 6 Weeks to 2 Years
- Variable Admissions Requirements
- Financial Aid for Some Programs



Finding the Right College

- Guidance Counselor
- Start Local
- College Fairs
- Search engines ([BigFuture](#), [CollegeNavigator](#), etc.)
- Specific programs
- Types of support
- Campus visits



College Admissions Process

Plan in advance

Support from IEP team

Exams

Application Essay

[Common App](#)

High School Transcript

Keep track of deadlines



Requesting Supports in College

At college or trade school, you have to share your disability, so that you can ask for help.

After admission:

- Appointment with the school's Disability Resource Office to share your disability officially
- Accommodations may look different in college compared to high school
- Most recent IEP or 504 Plan from high school
- Medical documentation



[7 things to know about college disability services](#)

Paying for College

Federal
Student Aid
Form (FAFSA)

Michigan
Student Aid

Tuition-Free
Community
College

Local
Scholarships

College
Scholarships

Vocational
Rehabilitation

Federal and State Financial Aid

Federal

- [Studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov)
- Complete the [FAFSA](#)
- High School Diploma
- Grants and/or loans



Michigan

- Complete the FAFSA
- Automatic consideration for Michigan Student Aid
- Diploma NOT required
- [Michigan.gov/mistudentaid](https://michigan.gov/mistudentaid)

Tuition-Free Community College

Dual
Enrollment

Early
Middle
College

Community
College
Guarantee

Michigan
Reconnect

Dual Enrollment and Early Middle College

Dual Enrollment

- Classes not offered by high school
- Receive both high school and college credit
- School district pays at least part of cost, up to 10 classes per student
- Transportation is not covered

Early Middle College

- 5 year program
- High school diploma **and** associate's degree
- Up to 60 transferable credits
- Each program has different admissions requirements
- Meet with guidance counselor
- Apply during 9th or 10th grade

[Source: Michigan Department of Education, "Dual Enrollment and Early Middle College: What's the Difference?"](#)

Community College Guarantee

Recent high school graduate from Michigan high schools only

Meet with college admissions counselor

Submit a federal student aid application (FAFSA)

Enroll FULL-TIME within 15 months of graduating high school

Up to 60 credits tuition-free

Part of Michigan Achievement Scholarship Program

Michigan Reconnect

Age 25 and up

Already have a high school diploma, GED, or Certificate of Completion

Michigan resident for at least 1 year

Do NOT already have an associate's or bachelor's degree

Meet with college admissions counselor for eligibility

In-district community college

Up to 60 transferable credits or professional certificate

Submit a [federal student aid application \(FAFSA\)](#)

Regular college application process

[Apply to Reconnect online here](#)

Michigan Transfer Agreement

www.mitransfer.org

- Course Equivalency
- General Education courses
- At least 30 credits
- Minimum GPA 2.0



Scholarships



Both public and private organizations award grants to youth who match the organization's ideals

Local Scholarships:

- Ask at high school counseling office
- Online searches
- Separate applications
- Usually merit-based

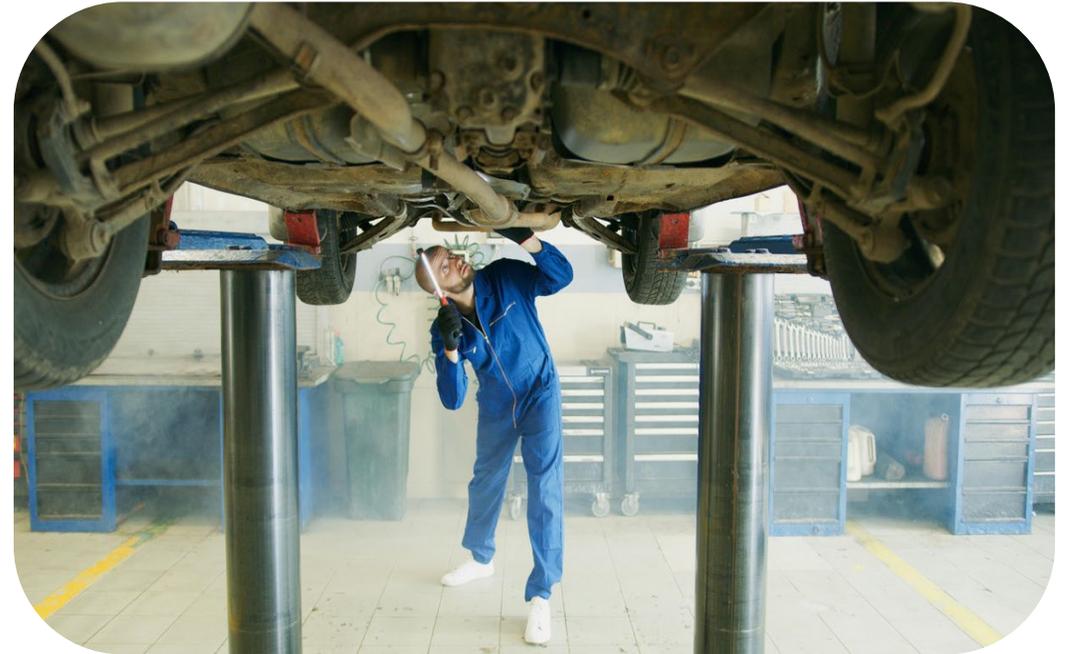
College Scholarships:

- Admitted students
- Complete the [FAFSA](#)
- Both need-based and merit-based
- Sometimes also separate applications and interviews

Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation Ages 14+

- Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS), Michigan.gov/mrs
- Bureau of Services for Blind Persons (BSBP), Michigan.gov/bsbp



Summary



- College planning starts in 8th grade
- IEP transition planning starts by age 16
- Team effort
- Self-Advocacy
- Be optimistic and realistic
- Identify a few possible options
- Complete the FAFSA!

We are here to support you!

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For more information visit

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

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Michigan Alliance for Families

In collaboration with



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