

College Planning with an IEP

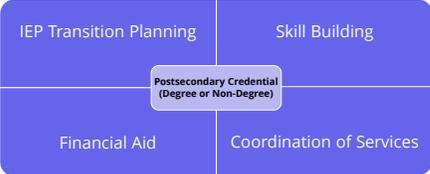
Karen Wang, Transition Specialist



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Yes, college is possible.

But...how?

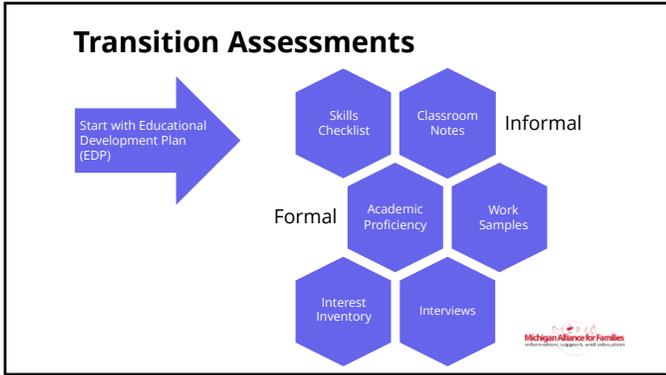



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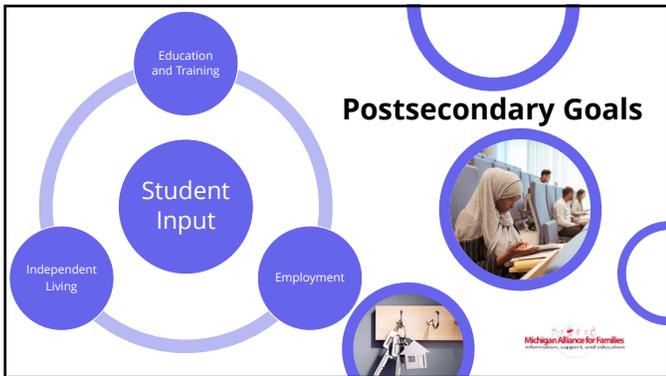
Individualized Education Program (IEP): Transition Planning



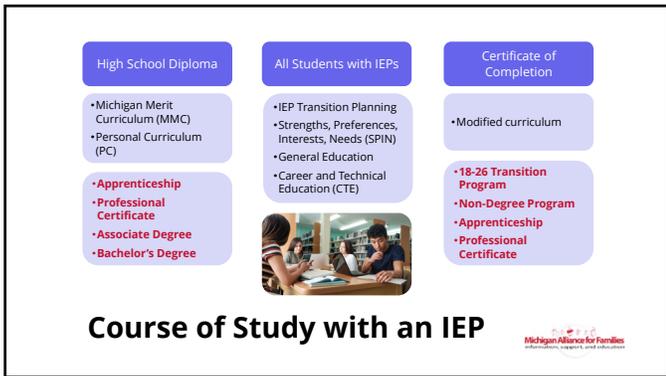

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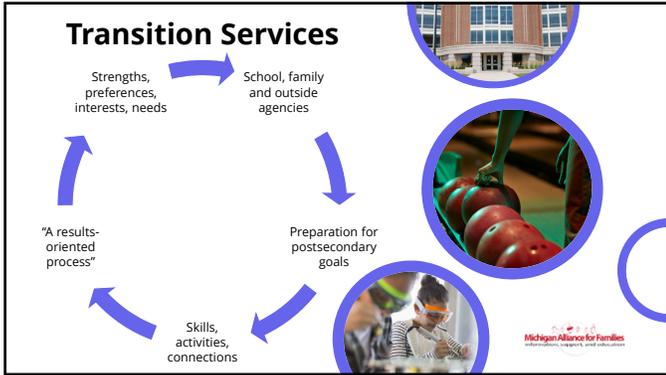
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Age of Majority: Transfer of Rights

Age 17

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

Age 18

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

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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)

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I speak up → I understand → I make things right

Self-Advocacy Skills

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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

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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

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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



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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





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Degree vs. Non-Degree Programs

| Degree | Non-Degree |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 years: Associate Degree • 4 years: Bachelor's Degree • Postgraduate: Master's Degree, M.D., J.D., etc. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Skills Program • Professional Certificate • Career Credential |



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Non-Degree Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities



- o ThinkCollege.net
- o Life Skills Instruction
- o General Education classes
- o Residential or Commuter
- o Out-of-pocket expense



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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




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Finding the Right College

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






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College Admissions Process

- Plan in advance
- Support from IEP team
- Exams
- Application Essay
- [Common App](#)
- High School Transcript
- Keep track of deadlines



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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](#)

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Paying for College

Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA)

Michigan Student Aid

Tuition-Free Community College

Local Scholarships

College Scholarships

Vocational Rehabilitation

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Federal and State Financial Aid

Federal

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



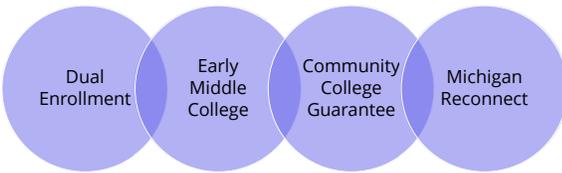
Michigan

- Complete the FAFSA
- Automatic consideration for Michigan Student Aid
- Diploma NOT required
- Michigan.gov/mistudentaid

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Tuition-Free Community College



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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?"

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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



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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](#)



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Michigan Transfer Agreement

www.mitransfer.org



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



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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



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Vocational Rehabilitation

Vocational Rehabilitation Ages 14+

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



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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!



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