College Planning with an IEP

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Michigan Alliance for Families
information, support, and education

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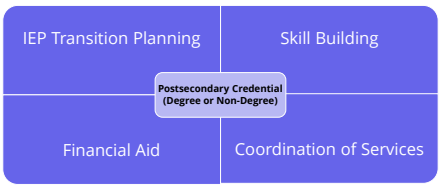
Yes, college is possible.

But…how?



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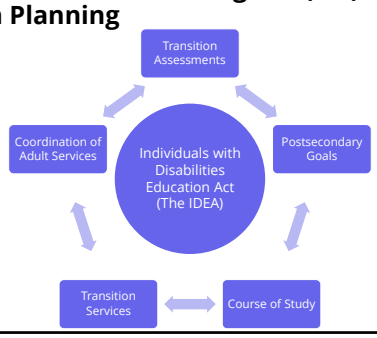
Individualized Education Program (IEP): Transition Planning



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Transition Assessments

Start with Educational Development Plan (EDP)

Informal: Skills Checklist, Classroom Notes

Formal: Academic Proficiency, Work Samples, Interest Inventory, Interviews

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Postsecondary Goals

Student Input

Education and Training

Employment

Independent Living





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Course of Study with an IEP

High School Diploma	All Students with IEPs	Certificate of Completion
•Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) •Personal Curriculum (PC)	•IEP Transition Planning •Strengths, Preferences, Interests, Needs (SPIN) •General Education •Career and Technical Education (CTE)	•Modified curriculum
•Apprenticeship **•Professional Certificate** **•Associate Degree** **•Bachelor's Degree**		**•18-26 Transition Program** **•Non-Degree Program** **•Apprenticeship** **•Professional Certificate**



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Transition Services

Strengths, preferences, interests, needs

School, family and outside agencies

Preparation for postsecondary goals

Skills, activities, connections

"A results-oriented process"







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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



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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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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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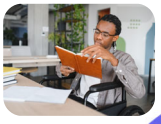
There is no IEP in college. But…

- 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
• 2 years: Associate Degree • 4 years: Bachelor's Degree • Postgraduate: Master's Degree, M.D., J.D., etc.	• Life Skills Program • Professional Certificate • Career Credential

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Non-Degree Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities



- ThinkCollege.net
- Life Skills Instruction
- General Education classes
- Residential or Commuter
- 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



- Guidance Counselor
- Start Local
- College Fairs
- Search engines (BigFuture, CollegeNavigator, etc.)
- Specific programs
- Types of support
- 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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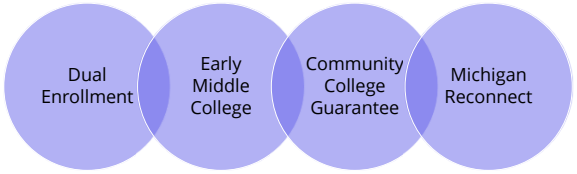
Tuition-Free Community College



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Dual Enrollment and Early Middle College

Dual Enrollment	Early Middle College
• 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	• 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 21 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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In collaboration with The Arc Michigan

Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE-OSE); the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP); and Michigan's Federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs(OSEP).

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This presentation was developed by Michigan Alliance for Families in partnership with Project Launch. Project Launch is a project of PACER Center and is reported by the US Department of Education's Rehabilitation Service Administration. The contents of this resource were developed under a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Education H23F140021. However, the contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education and should not assume endorsement by the federal government.

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