



Guidance for a Successful
Transition to Adult Life

*Factors to Consider When Helping a Young Adult
Transition to Life After School*

Grades K-3

KALAMAZOO RESA
INSPIRING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Transition Checklist

Transition means helping students with disabilities think about their life after school. The team must identify long-range goals and work together to ensure that the young adult gains the skills and connections they need to achieve these goals. Planning for the future is an investment in a student's well-being. Every member on the team plays an important role. Below you will find some important factors to consider during the transition process.

Families Should Work with the Student on the Following:	
	Create a file for educational and medical information in order to provide easy access to important records. Items to be placed in the file may include: most recent IEP, educational evaluations, medical records, etc.
	Take time to learn about the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Process and the basics of special education. Good resources include Parent to Parent of Southwest Michigan and ARC Community Advocates.
	Start talking with your child about their own strengths and challenges as an individual.
	Research and, if interested, join parent support groups. Keep information for future use.
	If needed, contact child care agencies.
	Visit the elementary school to meet the teachers and observe classes in order to make a smooth transition.
	Sign your child up for leisure and recreation activities (play groups, sports, music, libraries, etc.).
	Investigate, and apply if appropriate, for Social Security Income and/or Medicaid. Social Security benefits are based on income and level of disability. Contact Social Security Developmental Income and apply if eligible. 1-800-772-1213 www.ssa.gov To apply for Medicaid, call the Dept. of Human Services 269-337-4900
	If eligible, apply for Family Support Subsidy Program by calling 269-553-7063. Eligibility requirements: under 18, severely cognitively impaired, severely multiply impaired or Autism Spectrum Disorder and must be under \$60,000 of taxable income.

Helpful Transition Resources

Each local school district, as well as county-wide Kalamazoo RESA, has a Transition Coordinator on staff. It is the role of the transition coordinator to work with the schools, students and families to make connections with transition programs, provide information about available community resources, and help students to successfully transition to post-school life.

<u>Service Area</u>	<u>Districts Included in Service Area</u>	<u>Transition Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Central Service Area	Kalamazoo	Kevin Downing	269-492-4323
Eastern Service Area	Climax-Scotts, Comstock, Galesburg- Augusta, Parchment, Gull Lake	Jennifer Chiechi	269-484-2061
Southern Service Area	Portage, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg	Libby Danielson	269-910-8914
Kalamazoo RESA	-----	Jordan Stripling	269-250-9621

A listing of all community resources and agencies can be found on the

Kalamazoo RESA Transition Services webpage:

<http://kresa.org//site/Default.aspx?PageID=1449>

Accessing Community Resources

<u>Community Resource</u>	<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>How to Connect</u>
Integrated Services of Kalamazoo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supports Coordination ▪ Supported Employment ▪ Skill Building Assistance ▪ Enhanced Healthcare Services ▪ Community Living Supports ▪ Respite Care 	<p>To qualify for Developmental Disabilities Services, individual must have significant impairment. Note that services typically only offered to individuals who have Medicaid.</p> <p>Address: 418 W. Kalamazoo Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49007</p> <p>How to apply: Call The ISK Access Center at (269) 373-6000</p>
Michigan Rehabilitation Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Job Placement ▪ Job Coaching ▪ On the Job Training ▪ Vocational training MCTI ▪ Project SEARCH ▪ Support Services ▪ Job Readiness training ▪ Vocational exploration 	<p>A student MUST have a State ID and Social Security Card to become connected with MRS.</p> <p>In order to connect a student to MRS, contact Vocational Counselor, Rebecca Hill. She can be reached at hillr1@michigan.gov or (269)337-3700.</p>
Disability Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Living Skills Training ▪ Services for all disability related questions ▪ Booths and disability related trainings. 	<p>Visit www.dnswm.org for all information.</p>
The ARC Community Advocates	<p>The ARC Community Advocates can help students to understand their rights and speak their needs and wants. They can help with all areas - including school, housing, employment and community participation.</p>	<p>Visit www.communityadvocates.org</p>

Applying for Services

<u>Community Resource</u>	<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>How to Connect</u>
<p style="text-align: center;">Department of Human Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Food Stamps ▪ Medicaid ▪ Cash Assistance ▪ Variety of Other Programs 	<p>Online: https://www.mibridges.michigan.gov/access/</p> <p>In person:</p> <p>Fill out paper packet ahead of time. You can find it online at https://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5439_5439_5439-69226--,00.html</p> <p>Turn in application at local DHS office; 322 E. Stockbridge Ave. Kalamazoo MI, 269-337-4900.</p> <p>Adult with disability will need a representative (someone filing on behalf of adult)</p> <p>Adult with disability will need to designate someone as your payee who will receive your cash assistance and help manage and will also have a copy of your Bridge Card (food stamps)</p> <p>Needed information that DHS staff will ask for after complete initial application: SSN, family size, DOB, proof of identity (e.g., birth certificate, etc.), proof of income and assets, proof of enrollment in school and documentation of disability (e.g., MET report, doctor’s report, psychological testing, etc.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Social Security Administration</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Supplemental Security Income</p>	<p>Schedule an appointment with local SSI office by calling 1-800-772-1213. Interview can either be in person or via phone.</p> <p>Fill out application online at https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having the following information on hand is helpful: Your date and place of birth and Social Security number, name, address and phone number of someone we can contact who knows about your medical conditions and can help with your application. • Detailed information about your medical illnesses, injuries or conditions and names, addresses, phone numbers, patient ID numbers and dates of treatment for all doctors, hospitals and clinics. • Names of medicines you are taking and who prescribed them; and names and dates of medical tests you have had and who sent you for them. <p>Determination usually takes several months (four to seven) and generally only 30% of people are approved. The key is to emphasize and highlight student’s areas of need (e.g. , skills that individual is unable to do that affect daily life such as balancing a check book, maintaining a budget, etc.).</p>