



Guidance for a Successful Transition to Adult Life

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

Grades 4-6

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 & School Staff Should Work Together with the Student on The Following: | |
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| | Support the introduction of in-class jobs at school. |
| | Discuss activities around career awareness, exploration, and preparation. |
| | Discuss the differences between a Michigan Merit Curriculum Diploma and a Certificate of Completion. |
| | Have the student discuss what he or she might like to do as an adult. Introduce student to people who do various types of work. Discuss what the workers do and encourage student to talk about likes and dislikes. |
| | Encourage student to strive for early independence and socialization. Involve the student in social activities that foster self-respect, self-esteem, and self-determination. |

Families Should Work with the Student on the Following:

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| | Develop or update a Transition Planning file. Things to include may be birth certificate, state ID, social security card, IEPs, evaluations, and other related documents. |
| | Attend and participate in the IEP meeting. Attend informational meetings regarding services available to your child. |
| | Explain the IEP process to your student and encourage student to attend the IEP meeting, or at least part of it. |
| | Encourage your child to dress and groom appropriately, and to take care of his or her own self-care needs. Use routines at home for self-care and daily living skills. Increase expectations for your child as he or she gets older. |
| | Introduce the concept of work and responsibility into everyday activities at home. Make your child a productive part of the household by introducing chores. Assign your child specific duties around the house. |
| | Get your child involved in after-school leisure and recreational activities within the community (such as scouts, sports, music, etc.). Help your child develop age-appropriate friendships and social skills at home and in the community. |
| | Consider having some initial conversations with your child about their disability. Continue the conversation with them about what strengths they have and what challenges they may face. |
| | Teach cyber safety for using the internet, phones, and social media appropriately. |
| | Prior to starting middle school, visit the middle school and meet the teachers for a smooth transition. |
| | Seek opportunities for your child to engage in typical peer-related organizations (scouts, band, youth groups, libraries, museums, etc.). |
| | Inquire about peer mentors for school classes and activities. |
| | Have conversations with your child about stranger danger and other safety/vulnerability issues. |

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 from school life 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 | Heather Yankovich | 269-323-5402 |
| Kalamazoo RESA | ----- | Alvin Littel | 269-250-9258 |

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> |
|---|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">Integrated Services of Kalamazoo (ISK)</p> | <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 are typically only offered to individuals who have Medicaid.</p> <p>Address: 418 W. Kalamazoo Ave Kalamazoo, MI 49007</p> <p>How to apply: Call ISK Access Center at (269)373-6000</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Michigan Rehabilitation Services(MRS)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Job Placement ▪ Job Coaching ▪ On the Job Training ▪ Vocational training MCTI ▪ 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>Address: 4210 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI, 49008</p> <p>Call (269) 337-3700 to apply</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Disability Network</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Independent Living Skills Training ▪ Services for all disability related questions ▪ Booths and disability related trainings. | <p>Individuals with disabilities can apply.</p> <p>Address: 517 E. Crosstown Pkwy, Kalamazoo, MI 49001</p> <p>How to apply: Call (269) 345-1516 or visit www.dnswm.org</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">The ARC Community Advocates</p> | <p>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>Individuals with a developmental disability can apply</p> <p>Address: 814 S. Westnedge Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49008</p> <p>How to contact: Call (269) 342-9801 or 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;">Michigan Department of Health and 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/ In person: 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 Turn in application at local DHHS office: 322 E. Stockbridge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI, 269-337-4900. If the applicant is an adult with a disability, they will need a representative (someone filing on their behalf). The adult with a disability will need to designate someone as their payee who will receive their cash assistance, help manage it and have a copy of their Bridge Card (food stamps). Needed information that DHHS staff will ask for after the initial application is complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Security number • Family size • Date of birth • Proof of identity (e.g., birth certificate) • Proof of income and assets • Proof of enrollment in school • Documentation of disability (e.g., MET report, doctor's report, psychological testing) |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Social Security Administration</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Supplemental Security Income</p> | <p>Schedule an appointment with the local SSI office by calling (866) 331-9088. 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, 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> |