



# 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 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. A good resource includes <a href="https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/iepguide.pdf">https://www.ed.gov/sites/ed/files/parents/needs/speced/iepguide/iepguide.pdf</a>
	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 childcare agencies.
	Visit the elementary school to meet the teachers and observe classes 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 <a href="http://www.ssa.gov">www.ssa.gov</a>  To apply for Medicaid, visit <a href="http://www.newmibridges.michigan.gov">www.newmibridges.michigan.gov</a>
	If eligible, apply for the 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	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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Supports Coordination</li> <li>▪ Supported Employment</li> <li>▪ Skill Building Assistance</li> <li>▪ Enhanced Healthcare Services</li> <li>▪ Community Living Supports</li> <li>▪ Respite Care</li> </ul>	<p>To qualify for Developmental Disabilities Services, individuals 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 (269) 373-6000 or visit <a href="http://www.iskzoo.org">www.iskzoo.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Michigan Rehabilitation Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Job Placement</li> <li>▪ Job Coaching</li> <li>▪ On the Job Training</li> <li>▪ Vocational training MCTI</li> <li>▪ Support Services</li> <li>▪ Job Readiness training</li> <li>▪ Vocational exploration</li> </ul>	<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>How to apply: Call (269)337- 3700.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Disability Network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Independent Living Skills Training</li> <li>▪ Services for all disability related questions</li> <li>▪ Booths and disability related trainings.</li> </ul>	<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 <a href="http://www.dnswm.org">www.dnswm.org</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The ARC Community Advocates</p>	<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>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 <a href="http://www.communityadvocates.org">www.communityadvocates.org</a></p>

## Applying for Services

<u>Community Resource</u>	<u>Services Offered</u>	<u>How to Connect</u>
<p>Michigan Department of Health &amp; Human Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Food Stamps</li> <li>▪ Medicaid</li> <li>▪ Cash Assistance</li> <li>▪ Variety of Other Programs</li> </ul>	<p>Online: <a href="https://www.mibridges.michigan.gov/access/">https://www.mibridges.michigan.gov/access/</a></p> <p>In person:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill out paper packet ahead of time. You can find it online at <a href="https://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5439_5439_5439-69226--,00.html">https://www.michigan.gov/dhs/0,4562,7-124-5439_5439_5439-69226--,00.html</a></li> <li>• Turn in application at local DHHS office: 322 E. Stockbridge Ave. Kalamazoo, MI, 269-337-4900.</li> <li>• If the applicant is an adult with a disability, they will need a representative (someone filing on their behalf).</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul> <p><b>Needed information that DHHS staff will ask for after the initial application is complete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security number</li> <li>• Family size</li> <li>• Date of birth</li> <li>• Proof of identity (e.g., birth certificate)</li> <li>• Proof of income and assets</li> <li>• Proof of enrollment in school</li> <li>• Documentation of disability (e.g., MET report, doctor's report, psychological testing)</li> </ul>
<p>Social Security Administration</p>	<p>Supplemental Security Income</p>	<p>Schedule an appointment with the local SSI office by calling (866) 331-9088.</p> <p>Fill out application online at <a href="https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib">https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <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>

