SEPTEMBER 2019

Transition Planning:
Preparing for College

The LINK Center
Federation for Children with Special Needs
Workshop Topics

- A Change in Rights
- Benefits of a College Education
- Early Planning – Student Vision
- Disability Documentation/Accommodations
- Understanding Disability/Disclosure
- Skills for College
- The “Right” College
- The Application Process
- Healthcare Transition
Every student has the potential to keep learning after high school.

The key is to find the right match – program, school and support services!

_In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity._
Albert Einstein
A Change in Rights

Entitlement
High School Special Education:
Federal and State Laws – IDEA
M.G.L. c. 69, §1B, c. 71B

Eligibility
Postsecondary Education:
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
Americans with Disability ACT (ADA)
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

https://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/faq.html#q5

Students with Disabilities Preparing for Postsecondary Education: Know Your Rights and Responsibilities
http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html

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“Massachusetts students who are college and career ready will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and abilities that are necessary to successfully complete entry-level, credit-bearing college courses, participate in certificate or workplace training programs, and enter economically viable career pathways.”

http://www.doe.mass.edu/CCR/

State University System and UMass Minimum Admissions Requirements
https://www.mass.edu/gearup/forstudents/requirements.asp
Why Go to College?

Earnings and unemployment rates by educational attainment

Unemployment rate in 2013 (%)

- Doctoral degree: 2.2%
- Professional degree: 2.3%
- Master's degree: 3.4%
- Bachelor's degree: 4.0%
- Associate's degree: 5.4%
- Some college, no degree: 7.0%
- High school diploma: 7.5%
- Less than a high school diploma: 11.0%

Median weekly earnings in 2013 ($)

- Doctoral degree: $1,623
- Professional degree: $1,714
- Master's degree: $1,329
- Bachelor's degree: $1,108
- Associate's degree: $777
- Some college, no degree: $727
- High school diploma: $651
- Less than a high school diploma: $472

All workers: 6.1%

All workers: $827


Skills, Independence and Peer Interaction = Priceless!
Preparing to Go to College

Early Planning

• student vision
• address educational needs in IEP
• postsecondary goals – transition services
• solid academic foundation/high school course selection
• understand your disability/learning style/accommodations
• technology skills
• pre-college/summer programs
• references
Preparing to Go to College: Resources

A Practical Guide for People with Disabilities Who Want to Go to College
http://www.tucollaborative.org/education/

Opening Doors to Postsecondary Education and Training

Transition to College: Strategic Planning to Ensure Success for Students With Learning Disabilities

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Disability Documentation

Each College/University has its own requirements! Check out online or call to find out.

- Current Testing (adult level)
- Transition Assessments
- Colleges not required to conduct assessments
- IEPs can inform colleges - do not rule
- Can include 504 plans
- Summary of Performance (SOP) – recommendations not binding on colleges

*College will make its own determination of “reasonable accommodations”*
Helping Students Tell their Story...

Self-Determination and Self-Advocacy

Disability Disclosure


Social Media Portrait
https://www.commonsense.org/education/videos/digital-footprint
Accommodations in College

- Approved through Disability Services Office with documentation
- Not guaranteed and limited
- Student must speak with each professor at the beginning of each semester about accommodations
- Curriculum not modified

No IEP or 504 Plan in college!
Accommodations: Resources


https://centerontransition.org/documents/publications/College_Accommodations.pdf

Skills Needed for College

- Study Skills
- Time management
- Scheduling
- Organization
- Prioritizing
- Multi-Tasking
- Social Engagement
- Communication
- Self-determination

College Boot Camp – ASPIRE
https://www.massgeneral.org/aspire/teen-adult/college-boot-camp.aspx
The “RIGHT” College

Things to Know BEFORE Applying:

• Academic programs – degrees offered
• Disability Services – how to apply/reasonable accommodations
• Extra Support programs – additional fee
• Tutoring/Counseling – Ask questions!
• Social/Extracurricular Activities – Talk with students/Visit campus
• Type of Campus/Location
• Housing Options
• Career Services
• Financial aid, grants, work-study and loans
Applying to College

Make LISTS!
Ask questions – Do Your Homework – Develop Activity Resume – Start Essay

College Search Tool
https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search?navid=gh-cs

COLLEGES FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES – 2019
https://www.bestvalueschools.com/rankings/students-with-learning-disabilities/

Standardized Testing – Accommodations on college entrance exams
PSAT/SAT/ACT/AP and Achievement tests – sign up early!
https://www.collegeboard.org/students-with-disabilities
http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/

SAT website: Collegeboard.org
ACT website: ACT.org
Applying to College: Resources

Students with Disabilities
Overview of College Resources for Students with Disabilities

http://www.amazon.com/Programs-Disabilities-Attention-Hyperactivity-Admissions/dp/0307945073

http://www.amazon.com/Petersons-Colleges-Disabilities-Attention-Disorders/dp/156079853X

http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/disabled-students/
The Application Process

Understand your Role

Student – ID interests/types of schools, COMPLETE APPLICATIONS
Resources: other students, online resources

High School Guidance – explain the process/guide
Resources: Planning Calendars, school resources/Naviance

Parents/Family – support, research, visit schools and review
Resources: other parents, neighbors, school, therapists

Others - College advisors/planners, Independent Living Center, counselors, coaches

Early action – One safe school
The Application Process: Resources

APPLICATIONS – Common Application online
https://www.commonapp.org/apply

Disclosure of Disability
http://www.ncwd-youth.info/?s=Disability%20Disclosure

GUIDANCE AND CAREER COUNSELORS’ TOOLKIT
Advising HS Students with Disabilities on Postsecondary Options
https://heath.gwu.edu/sites/heath.gwu.edu/files/downloads/Toolkit%202014.pdf

Early Decision – Early Action -
https://professionals.collegeboard.org/guidance/applications/early

Crafting an Unforgettable College Essay
https://www.princetonreview.com/college-advice/college-essay
Community Colleges

The fifteen community colleges in the Commonwealth provide affordable access to higher education and prepare students to earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a baccalaureate program, or provide vital training to enter or advance in the regional workforce.

- 2 year program
- Remedial coursework
- Diverse student populations
- Convenient locations
- Affordable tuition

http://www.masscc.org/
4 Year Colleges and Universities

Thanks to all the knowledge, skills and experience students gain in college, they’ll be able to adapt to a greater variety of jobs and careers.

College work can challenge and inspire young adults. In college, they can explore subjects in greater depth than they did in high school, choose their own courses and class schedule, and decide which extracurricular activities they’ll focus on — and how much time they’ll give them.

- 4 year programs
- May require Entrance Tests (ACT, SAT, ACCUPLACER)
- College Application Process
- Disability Disclosure (optional) - Eligibility - Documentation
- Disability Services and Supports/Assistive Technology
- Financial Aid – Scholarships, Grants, Work-Study and Loans
Other College/Educational Opportunities

Commonwealth Dual Enrollment Partnership
https://www.mass.edu/strategic/read_cdep.asp

GAP/Community Service Programs
https://usagapyearfairs.org/programs/

Trade Schools and Technical Colleges
https://careerschoolnow.org/colleges/states/massachusetts

Massachusetts Colleges Online
https://www.mco.mass.edu/

Military Educational Options
http://www.military.com/education
Healthcare Transition

• **Age 14-17 Take Charge of Health**
  - Young adult needs to understand health condition and treatments
  - Practice talking to others outside of his family about his diagnosis (friends, teachers)
  - Manage medications
  - *Start the transition conversation with doctors (14)*

• **Age 18 and up: It’s Time!**
  - Responsible for health care appointments, information
  - Know your medical history, medications and treatments
  - Know how to handle an emergency
  - Talk with providers about your medical future.
Recommended Health Care Transition Timeline

AGE:

12
Make youth and family aware of transition policy

14
Initiate health care transition planning

16
Prepare youth and parents for adult model of care and discuss transfer

18
Transition to adult model of care

18-22
Transfer care to adult medical home and/or specialists with transfer package

23-26
Integrate young adults into adult care

https://www.gottransition.org/providers/index.cfm
Other Considerations

✓ Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) - parents may not have access to educational records. Exceptions!!

✓ Age of Majority – at age 18 all rights transfer to student

✓ Financial Literacy

✓ Transportation

✓ Assistive Technology
Resources

- Age of Majority

- Transitions RTC – Getting Accommodations at College: Tools for School
  https://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsACR/

- Financial Literacy

- Transportation
  https://www.mass.gov/orgs/massmobility

- Assistive Technology
  http://www.easterseals.com/ma/our-programs/assistive-technology/