

# TRANSITION PLANNING STEPS FOR STUDENTS WORKING TOWARD A HS DIPLOMA

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Transition planning is an individualized and unique experience for each student. Outlined below are some steps for youth and families to consider as youth get closer to leaving high school.

Starting in the school year a student turns 12, there are critical transition activities that should happen annually:

- Annual vocational assessments (student interview, parent/guardian questionnaire, teachers and related services provider questionnaire)
- Vocational assessments being used to inform the Present Level of Performance (PLOP) in the IEP
- Consistent career exploration and exposure at home, school, and in the community
- Ongoing discussion of transition services and planning
- Discuss and consider credential and/or diploma options during IEP meetings

## **Disability Rights/Awareness**

- When applying to high school, review the schools' special education services and programs
- At 15, students must be invited to IEP meetings (earlier, if appropriate)
- Identify credential or diploma track student is working towards
- Learn about the differences in laws regarding education through high school (IDEA) and workplace and higher education (ADA)
- Visit college campuses or vocational programs
- Students participate in annual reviews and transition planning meetings
- Ensure final Mandated Three-Year Re-evaluation (formerly known as the triannual evaluation) is conducted (preferably within the last year of high school) to ensure an up-to-date evaluation for requesting accommodations in the future.
- Participate in final IEP meeting: obtain exit summary

## **Support Programs**

- Connect with ACCES-VR, OPWDD, and/or OMH if appropriate
- Apply for SYEP (summer internship and volunteer opportunities) and TOP
- Accumulate hours, credits, and Regents exams towards respective diploma/credential
- Apply to postsecondary schools or employment/vocational programs
- Connect with college accessibility/disability/support services office

## **Independent Living Skills**

- Increase awareness of and independence using public transportation systems
- Practice reading maps, using Google maps, and navigating the city independently
- Register to vote at 18 years old
- Start building financial literacy

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## Collect Documents

- Obtain official photo ID card (for example, NYS driver's license or non driver's ID)
- Apply for working papers, if under the age of 18 years old
- Collect necessary financial and disability documents for applications/ accommodations after high school
  - Most up to date IEP
  - Medical documentation of disability
  - Disability evaluations