

Glossary of Transition Terms



This glossary from The Parents' Place of Maryland was created to help you understand the terms and buzzwords that you may hear when you have a transition-age child.

<u>ABLE Account</u>	The Federal Achieving a Better Life Experience Act created programs for tax-advantaged savings accounts for people with disabilities to maintain eligibility for federal and state benefits while saving money below the thresholds to cover qualified disability expenses. The Maryland ABLE program is implemented by independent state agency, Maryland 529.
Accommodations	“Practices and procedures that provide student with disabilities equitable access during instruction and assessment in the areas of presentation of content, student response, setting for instruction, and schedule” (MSDE 2019)
Americans with Disabilities Act ADA	A Federal Civil Rights law that prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in the areas of employment, public transportation, services provided by state and local government, services and accommodations offered by private businesses, and telecommunication access for people with communication impairments.
Agency Linkage	There are four state agencies in Maryland that may provide services or supports for eligible students: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), The Department of Labor. Your child’s school transition coordinator may refer your child to each of these agencies with your signed consent.
Age of Majority	Each state sets an age at which a person is considered to be an adult with all the legal rights and responsibilities of an adult. In Maryland the age of majority is 18.
Assistive Technology	A device or service that helps people with disabilities participate more independently at school, work, or within their community. Assistive technology can include items such as screen readers, timers, adaptive keyboards, and communication devices.
Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)	The state agency that provides services and supports for behavioral health disorders including emotional and/or mental health disorders, co-occurring disorders, substance-related disorders, and problem-gambling disorders.
(The Maryland High School) Certificate of Program Completion	A Certificate of Program Completion shall be awarded only to students with disabilities who cannot meet the requirements for a diploma but who meet the following standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The student is enrolled in an education program for at least four years beyond grade 8 or its age equivalent, and is determined by an IEP team, with the agreement of the parents of the student with disabilities, to have developed appropriate skills for the individual to enter the world of work, act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life, including but

	<p>not limited to: Gainful employment; Post-secondary education and training; Supported employment; and other services that are integrated in the community; or</p> <p>b. The student has been enrolled in an education program for four years beyond grade 8 or its age equivalent and will have reached age 21 before the first day of the next school year.”</p>
Department of Labor	The Maryland Department of Labor provides job development and employment training to help our citizens get the skills and expertise they need to move with our economy into Maryland's future. They have a variety of programs including for youth and people with disabilities.
<u>Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)</u>	The DDA supports children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across the lifespan. The DDA's person- and family-centered service delivery system helps ensure that the individuals whom the DDA serves receive the appropriate support to lead meaningful, community-based lives. The DDA's service delivery system includes home- and community-based services and supports provided through Medicaid, waiver programs and state-funded services. Some of DDA's services include: employment services, community development services, respite, personal supports, vehicle modifications, transportation and behavioral support services.
Diploma	A diploma is awarded to students who complete the enrollment, credit, and service requirements.
<u>Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)</u>	DORS is a division of the Maryland State Department of Education. DORS is composed of the public vocational rehabilitation (VR) program and the Disability Determination Services (DDS). DDS evaluates eligibility and makes medical decisions about disability claims filed by Marylanders for Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit programs.
Eligibility	A student must meet eligibility requirements and services are not guaranteed.
Entitlement	Primary and Secondary students with disabilities are guaranteed a free, appropriate public education and services for their disability.
Guardianship	The person under guardianship loses the legal authority to make certain decisions by themselves. Guardianship is a legal proceeding.
Maryland Summary of Performance (MSOP)	A report required under IDEA that a student with an IEP gets before they finish schooling in Maryland with either a Maryland High School Diploma or Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion. It provides important information that they may use as they transition from school to postsecondary activities including employment, postsecondary education, supported employment, or independent living provided by community rehabilitation providers.
Medicaid Waiver	The Medicaid Waiver provides eligible individuals with Medicaid coverage regardless of income.
<u>Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)</u>	Pre-ETS are five specific services designed to help eligible students with disabilities identify their career interests and enhance their awareness of the world of work: Job Exploration Counseling, Instruction in Self-Advocacy, Counseling on Post-Secondary Education Opportunities, Workplace Readiness

	Training, Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLE).
Secondary Transition Planning	Planning for a student's life after high school.
Self-Determination	Making choices and decisions about the goals for one's own life. Taking action steps needed to reach the goals.
Social Security Administration	The state agency that administers The Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income disability programs.
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)	SSI pays benefits based on financial need.
Supplemental Security Income Disability Programs	SSDI pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes.
Supported Decision-Making	Supports and services that help a person with a disability make his or her own decisions, by using friends, family members, professionals, and other people they trust to help them to know the issues and choices, ask questions, receive explanations in language he or she understands, and communicate his or her own decisions to others. SDM is an alternative to guardianship that allows a person to keep their decision-making authority without appointing a substitute decision-maker.
Transfer of Rights	The legal rights of parents to make educational decisions, including refusing or agreeing to special education services, are given to the student when they become a legal adult.
Transition Partner Organization	There are four state agencies in Maryland that may provide services or supports for eligible students: The Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), The Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS), Behavioral Health Administration (BHA), and The Department of Labor.
Transition Planning	The goal of transition planning is to support students with disabilities as they progress through school and prepare for life in the adult world. This includes planning for college, work, transportation, living arrangements, healthcare, and daily living.
Transition Services	<p>(a) Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation; 2) Is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences, and interests; and includes — <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Instruction; ii. Related services; iii. Community experiences;

	<p>iv. The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and</p> <p>v. If appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.</p> <p>(b) Transition services for children with disabilities may be special education, if provided as specially designed instruction, or a related service, if required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education. (IDEA §300.43)</p>
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Sources

- DORS [website](#)
- Maryland Department of Health [website](#)
- [IDEA §300.43](#)
- Maryland ABLE [website](#)
- Maryland State Department of Education Secondary Transition [webpage](#)
- PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment [Self-Advocacy Term Descriptions](#)
- Center for Parent Information & Resources [Key Terms to Know in Special Education](#)
- Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Early Intervention/Special Education Services' [Secondary Transition Planning Guide for Individuals with Disabilities](#)
- Peter Blank and Jonathan Martinis, "The Right to Make Choices": National Resource Center for Supported Decision-Making, Inclusion 3:1 (2015).
- See also Bradley et. al., National Core Indicator Data Brief, 2019

Resources

- [Turning 18 in Maryland](#) from The Parents' Place of Maryland
- [Empower YOUR future: Join YOUR IEP meeting!](#) from The Parents' Place of Maryland
- [Self-Determination & Self-Advocacy](#) from The Parents' Place of Maryland
- [IEP: Tips for the Transition Section](#) from The Parents' Place of Maryland
- Supported Decision-Making [webinar and resources](#) from The Parents' Place of Maryland