Transition

Tips for Effective Family Involvement in Secondary Transition

1. Start Early, Think Long-Term and Update Annually

- Begin discussing your child's future goals and interests well before age 14
- Encourage exploration of jobs, hobbies, and college or technical training options

2. Be an Active Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Member

- Attend all IEP meetings and ask questions about transition planning and transition services
- Share insights about your child's strengths, needs, and aspirations

3. Encourage Self-Advocacy

- Help your child practice speaking up about their goals and needs
- Support them in participating in their IEP meetings

4. Focus on Skill Building

- Reinforce and practice life skills at home (e.g., budgeting, using public transportation)
- Support academic and functional skills that align with future goals

5. Connect with Community Resources Early

- Learn about local services like vocational rehabilitation, job training, and independent living programs
- Attend transition fairs or workshops to explore options
- Explore job and volunteer opportunities

6. Maintain High Expectations

- Believe in your child's potential and communicate that belief
- Set realistic but ambitious goals for education, employment, and independence

7. Document and Organize

- Keep records of assessments, IEPs, and transition plans
- Use tools like a transition portfolio to track progress and achievements

8. Stay Informed

- Learn about your child's rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Use trusted resources like Wrightslaw and National Technical Assistance on Transition (NTACT) (*see more on the next page)*
- Learn about legal and financial planning (e.g., Supported Decision Making, Guardianship, and Benefits)

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PPMD's information, resources, and trainings can be made available in languages other than English, including sign language upon request. Please contact us regarding your translation and interpretation needs.

Helpful Resources for Families	Description
Maryland Secondary Transition Planning Guide for Individuals with Disabilities	Guidance for special education and transition planning
DORS – Division of Rehabilitation Services	Pre-employment and vocational services for students with disabilities
DDA – Developmental Disabilities Administration	Services for individuals with developmental disabilities
SSI – Supplemental Security Income	Financial support for eligible youth with disabilities
Think College	College options for students with intellectual disabilities
WrightsLaw	Legal information about special education and transition rights
Center on Youth Voice Youth Choice	Research, advocacy, and teaches about alternatives to guardianship (A2G)
National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)	Evidence-based practices and tools for transition planning
Charting the LifeCourse	Planning tools for families and individuals with disabilities
Plan for Your Future - Maryland PROMISE	Resources for parents and transition age youth related to secondary education, work, benefits, money, health, well-being and social connections.