



Making The Transition

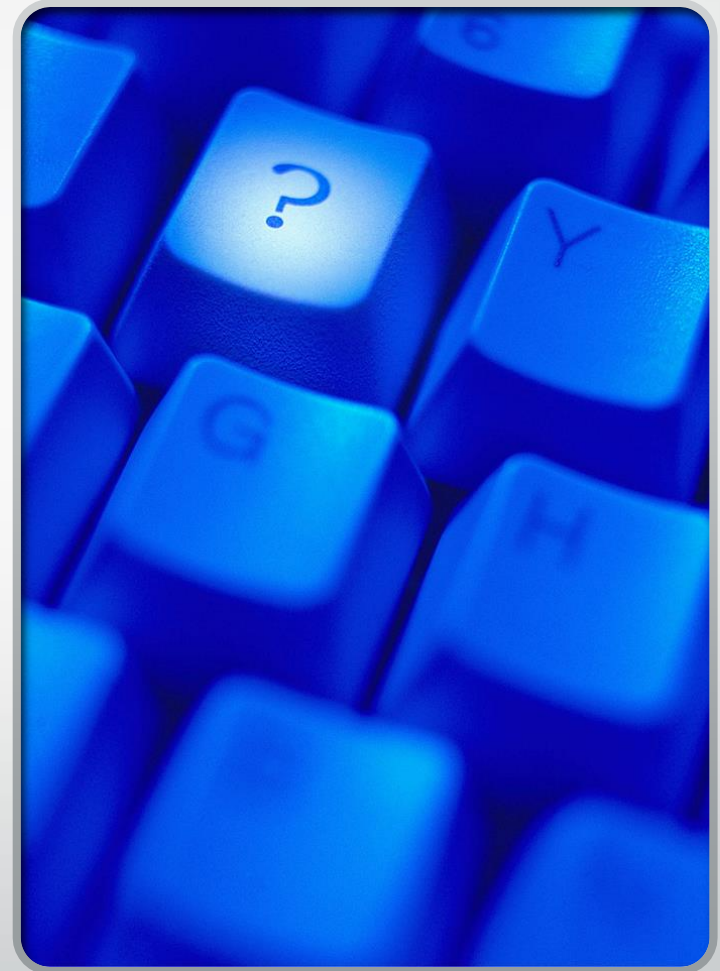
Office of Special Education and Student Services

Department of Special Education Services

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**How can families and schools
work together to assist
students in achieving their
goals and planning for their
future?**



Transition Services

Transition services provides stakeholders with the necessary resources, tools, supports and professional development needed to ensure a students successful transition into:

- Employment
- Post-Secondary education
- Job training and career development
- Adult services and supported employment
- Independent living and community participation

Transition Services

Transition planning is a continuous process...it is not a one-time event



Transition planning is a collaborative process and parents are essential partners in the process



The student is the key decision-maker; the student is encouraged to participate in this process

Maryland Graduation Requirements



- MCPS students earn a high school diploma based upon successful fulfillment of four requirements: Enrollment, Course Credit, High School Assessments, and Student Service Learning.
- **Enrollment**—Students must satisfactorily complete four years of school beyond Grade 8.
- **Course Credit**—A student must earn 22 credits to graduate. Each semester course is worth one half (0.5) credit.
- **Student Service Learning (SSL)**—Students must complete 75 hours of approved Student Service Learning activities.
- **High School Assessments (HSAs)**—Students must pass the Maryland High School Assessments for English, algebra, and biology.
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/curriculum/hsa/0559.12_HS_GradRequirements.pdf

Certificate of Program Completion Requirements

- The student is enrolled in an MCPS educational program for at least 4 years beyond grade 8, or its equivalency, and is determined by an IEP team, with the agreement of the student's parents, to have developed appropriate skills for the individual to enter the world of work, to act responsibly as a citizen, and enjoy a fulfilling life.
- The student has been enrolled in an educational program for 4 years beyond grade 8, or it's age equivalent and will have reached the age of 21 by the end of the student's current school year.



Diploma or Certificate: How is the Decision Made?

- **The IEP Team Considers:**

1. Realistic exit outcomes for the student
2. Maryland State High School Assessment Testing
3. Credit-bearing courses

- **When Is the Decision Made:**

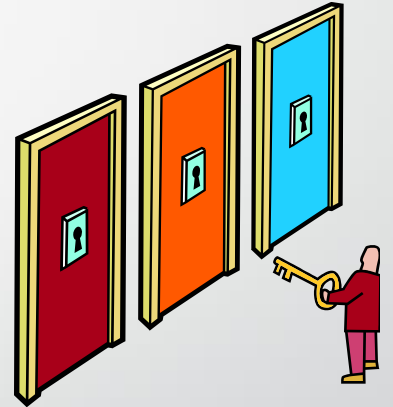
The decision is made at the beginning of the student's last year in high school, unless the student is participating in the NCSC (National Center & State Collaborative).

High School College and Career Centers

- Every MCPS high school has a college and career center
- <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/careercenter/>
- The college and career centers are available to help student explore their areas of interest as they prepare for their future
- At the college and career center, students can find information on:
 1. College Planning: Information on financial aid, applications, deadlines, and standardized test requirements for over 200 colleges and universities
 2. Career Planning: Information on career awareness, career/trade schools, the military, opportunities for special populations and summer enrichment
 3. General information: offers resources on accommodations for college testing

What are the Options for After High School?

- Post-secondary education, what will that look like?
- Employment
- A combination of post-secondary education and employment



Entitlement vs. Eligibility

- In Maryland, a student with a disability who is receiving special education services is **entitled** to a free and appropriate public education through the school year in which the student turns 21 years of age (IDEA, 2004), or has met the requirements for a Maryland High school Diploma or a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion. Once a student exits from school, he or she **must** meet the **eligibility criteria** and funding availability to receive services from any adult service agencies.

MSDE Transition Planning Guide, January, 2010

Entitlement vs. Eligibility

There are differences...

K-12

- IDEA (allows for a free appropriate public education (FAPE))
- Educational and psychological testing is provided
- Annual review and IEP
- Parental involvement
- Schools identify needs
- Case manager & parents advocate
- Range of services

Post-Secondary

- Section/504 of Rehabilitation Act and ADA of 1990
- Student's provide documentation
- N/A
- Parental involvement changes (confidentiality)
- Student must seek services
- Student advocates
- Accommodations related to access and course requirements

Post-Secondary Options

- Meet with the appropriate person at your child's high school to apply for accommodations for the PSAT/SAT
<http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/for-students-with-disabilities>
- If your child is taking the ACT, he/she will apply for accommodations when they register to take the test <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/disab/>

Post-Secondary Options

- Attend the Disability Support Services (DSS) meeting at the Rockville Campus of Montgomery College www.montgomerycollege.edu/dss/
- Research post-secondary programs on the ThinkCollege website: www.thinkcollege.net
- Explore the College Living Experience website: <http://experiencecle.com/>

Where to Get Started?



Begin a portfolio for your child



Begin teaching your child about self-determination and self-advocacy



Promote independence

The Portfolio

- Start the portfolio early
- Suggested organization:
 - Personal documentation
 - Completed assessments (psychological, educational, speech/language, etc.)
 - IEP's
 - Contact logs
 - Completed applications
 - Any information related to employment (paid or volunteer)
 - Medical information, if appropriate



Self-Determination & Self-Advocacy

- **Self-Determination:** making your own choices, learning to effectively solve problems, taking control and responsibility for one's own life.
- **Self-Advocacy:** taking charge of your own life, and having the right to make decisions without undue influence or control by others.

Promote Independence



- Empower your child to be as independent as possible
- Give your child chores or responsibilities at home
- Can my child....
 - make their own lunch?
 - do their own laundry?
 - navigate safely in the community?
 - wake up in the morning and go through their morning routine without you?



The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

- DORS offers programs and services to individuals with disabilities who want to work or become more independent in their homes and communities.
- Students can be referred to DORS by the transition support teacher in their high school; their families; or, they can refer themselves. The referral should be made the year **prior** to their graduation, and they must be found **eligible** for services. DORS services are **not** an entitlement service.
- DORS can begin to serve students, if they are found **eligible**, while they are still in high school, to help them move into post-secondary education, job training and employment.
- Programs and services for **eligible** students: career decision-making & counseling; assistive technology accommodations; job training; job search & placement; independent living skills training; supported employment job coaching, and other support services.

Transition Planning Begins Today!

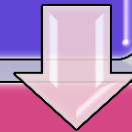
Set Goals: Short and long term

Get Information

Evaluate each alternative

Develop a plan of action

Act on each step



Transition Resources and Information

- **MCPS Department of Special Education, Transition Services**

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/special-education/programs-services/transition-services-unit.aspx>

- **Maryland Transitioning Youth**

<http://www.mdtransition.org/>

- **The Maryland Higher Education Commission**

<http://www.mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/College411/College411Home.asp>

- **The Maryland State Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation (DORS)**

<https://www.dors.state.md.us/dors>

Questions?

