

Transition to Postsecondary Education

Main Messages for Students and Families

Although students with disabilities have historically encountered significant barriers to higher education, ongoing advancements in support systems, legal protections, and transition programs are continuously improving their access and success.

Access to postsecondary education is expanding.

- There are many pathways to obtaining postsecondary education. These pathways include dual enrollment programs while students are in high school, college and university degree and non-degree programs, vocational training, and apprenticeships.

Prioritize transition planning.

- Early and continuous planning helps students develop essential academic and executive function skills to navigate postsecondary education.

Exercise self-advocacy.

- Unlike in high school where schools arrange accommodations, college students must self-advocate, seek out disability services, and manage their own academic responsibilities. It is critical for success.

Implement collaboration, support networks & accommodations.

- Collaboration between students, families, educators, disability services, and community agencies, including vocational and employment training programs, is crucial for successful transitions. This ensures the provision of appropriate accommodations and supports.

Know that funding is available.

- Vocational Rehabilitation can support eligible students with tuition, books, housing assistance, and other accommodations.

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