

**Learn More About
The Arc of Tennessee's
Secondary Transition Project**

www.thearctn.org/education.php

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The Arc of Tennessee advocates for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. Through our family-based network of members and chapters, we support and empower individuals and families; connect and inform individuals and families; improve support and service systems; influence public policy; increase public awareness; and inspire inclusive communities.

The Arc of Tennessee manages by the values, Integrity, Respect, Courage, and Justice. Donations to The Arc of Tennessee are tax-deductible.

The Secondary Transition Project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee's Department of Education.

The Arc of Tennessee values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.

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The Secondary Transition Process An Overview



What is Secondary Transition?

Secondary Transition is the journey from high school to adult life. A student who receives special education services, also has measurable outcomes.

Transition begins at 14, or younger in Tennessee and continues until the student earns a diploma or exits high school the year they turn 22.

Secondary Transition:

1. Recognizes the student's preferences, interests, and needs
2. Develops the student's future vision
3. Identifies the student's present levels of educational performance
4. Develops the IEP with a statement of needed transition services
5. Implements the IEP
6. Evaluates the Results

Student Preferences, Interests and Needs

Students are more motivated to achieve when they lead their educational planning. Age-appropriate assessments identify the student's preferences, interests, and needs.

Develop a Vision for the Future

Help the student identify the work and living circumstances and who s/he wants as an adult. A PATH is one planning tool that can be used to help develop the student's vision.

Develop the IEP with Statement of Needed Transition Services

Measurable post-school annual goals must address:

- Instruction (high school classes)
- Related services (like transportation)
- Postsecondary education and/or training (college, job training, etc.)
- Employment
- Independent or supported living
- Community involvement
- Adult living objectives (e.g. cooking)

Implement the IEP

The student with the help of the IEP team chooses the classes to take along with what Transition services the student needs. An

Evaluate Results

Each year, the student should make progress toward her/his post-secondary goals. When a student exits or graduates high school, the school will help the student create a Summary of Performance.

The overall goal is for the student to become an adult with post-school goals in the areas of:

- Education/Training,
- Employment, and
- Independent/Supported Living

Student Directed IEP meetings are a great way to empower students to become Self-Advocates who practice Self-Determination by making their own decisions.



Transfer of Rights

When a student reaches 18 years old, s/he is an adult in the state of Tennessee, if no legal action is taken. For information on Durable Power Of Attorney (for educational purposes) and/or Conservatorships, contact The Arc of Tennessee at 615/248-5878 or 800/835-7077.



Secondary Transition Information

For information about The Arc Tennessee's Secondary Transition Project. 800/835-7077, 615/215-2065, or 731/559-4187, or go to www.thearcctn.org/Education.php

Tennessee Disability Pathfinder

Information and Referral

800/640-4636 or

<http://kc.vanderbilt.edu/tnpathfinder/>

Family Voices of Tennessee

Health Care Transition Information

615/383-9442

www.tndisability.org/familyvoices

STEP, Inc.

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents

Training, Information, and Support

800/280-7837 or www.tnstep.org/

Tennessee Division of Special Education

888/212-3162 or 615/741-2851

http://state.tn.us/education/student_support/special_education.shtml

The UT Center on Disability and Employment

Information, Training, and Support

865/974-9400 or www.clee.utk.edu

This list is not exhaustive but is a good place to start. This brochure is not intended to replace the advice of legal counsel.