

## TRANSITION RESOURCE GUIDE

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities for a student with a disability that:

- is designed to be a results-oriented process that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the student with a disability to facilitate the student's movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment), continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation; and...
- is based on the individual student's needs, considering the student's strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- includes instruction, related services, community experiences, employment, and other post-school adult living objectives, and if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills.

To facilitate quality planning for a successful transition to postsecondary education and career opportunities for students with disabilities, Brevard Public Schools will:

- begin the transition process during the student's seventh grade year, or when the student attains the age of 12, whichever occurs first. In addition, students will be administered an annual transition assessment which will help guide goals, agency partnerships, and outcomes.
- ensure the IEP team has an operational plan in place that is implemented on the first day of the student's first year in high school or when the student attains the age of 14, whichever occurs first.
- provide a statement of the student's intent to pursue a standard high school diploma and a Scholar or Merit designation which documents discussion of the process of deferment of a standard high school diploma for a student with a disability who meets the requirements for a standard high school diploma.
- ensure the IEP in effect at the start of the student's graduation year includes a signed statement by the student's parent or guardian, or by the student if the student is of majority age and rights have transferred, that documents understanding of the deferment process and identifies whether the student will defer the receipt of a standard high school diploma.
- provide the student and parent with information about specific services and programs for students with disabilities and referral forms, links, and technical support for accessing such services and programs. See below.

## TRANSITION RESOURCES

The information below is provided to assist IEP teams, parents, legal guardians, and students in accessing programs and services available to support a successful school to postsecondary transition.

- 1. Brevard Public Schools (BPS) Transition Website:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/14923>
  - The BPS Transition Website provides transition information and links for parents to access various school and agency services. Links to recorded “Transition Talks” sessions, START Conference sessions, and contact information are also provided.
  
- 2. Career and Technical Education at BPS:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Domain/1173>
  - With BPS’ Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs, whatever field you choose, chances are there is a class - or even an entire course of study - that will give you relevant experience with the latest technology. The CTE website provides information on CTE programs and courses available through BPS. Also, please don’t hesitate to contact your school guidance department or the office of Career and Technical Education (321) 633-1000 x 11380 for information on CTE programs.
  
- 3. School Level Transition Services and Programs:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18271>
  - Learner Empowerment through Agency Partnerships (LEAP), Practical Applications of Career Exploration (PACE), Brevard Learners Achieving Successful Transition (BLAST), and Project SEARCH are all BPS transition programs available to students with disabilities. Information and links to each of these programs is available on the BPS Transition website.
  
- 4. Collegiate Programs:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18280>
  - Due to location, parents of Brevard students are usually interested in learning about two collegiate programs: Eastern Florida State College (EFSC) and the University of Central Florida (UCF). Information and links to both colleges are provided on the BPS Collegiate Programs website as well as information and links to each college’s office for students with disabilities.
  
- 5. Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18281>
  - The Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Program Act (FS 1004.6495) established the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) at the University of Central. The purpose of the FCSUA is to provide support to students, families, and institutions of higher education so that students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences that lead to employment opportunities. Information and links can be found on BPS Transition website.
  
- 6. Florida Centers for Independent Living:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18282>
  - Centers for Independent Living (CILs) are consumer-driven, non-profit organizations whose mission is to support community living and independence for people with disabilities based on the belief that all people can live with dignity, make their own choices and participate fully in society. CILs serve all disabilities and all ages in every county in Florida. The Resource Center for Disability Solutions (RCDS) is the only Center for Independent Living in Brevard County. Information and links to both the Florida CILs and Brevard’s RCDS are located on the BPS Transition website.

7. **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18283>
  - Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) is the state agency that helps people with physical and mental disabilities prepare for, get, advance in or keep a job. Brevard Public Schools works very closely with VR to assist students and families as they transition from school to post-school opportunities. Information and links can be found on the BPS Transition website.
  
8. **Agency for Persons with Disabilities:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18284>
  - The Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) is specifically tasked with serving the needs of Floridians with developmental disabilities. APD works with local organizations, including Brevard Public Schools, and private providers to support people who have developmental disabilities and their families in living, learning, and working in their communities. The application process for APD begins at age 3 and the qualifying factors are listed on their website found on the BPS Transition page.
  
9. **Division of Blind Services:** <https://www.brevardschools.org/Page/18285>
  - The Florida Division of Blind Services helps blind and visually impaired individuals achieve their goals and live their lives with as much independence and self-direction as possible. Information and links can be found on the BPS Transition website.
  
10. **Project 10-Transition Education Network:** <http://project10.info/>
  - The mission of Project 10: Transition Education Network, also referred to as "Project 10," is to assist Florida school districts and relevant stakeholders in building capacity to provide secondary transition services to students with disabilities in order to improve their academic success and post-school outcomes. Project 10 serves as the primary conduit between the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), specifically the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education (BESE), and relevant school district personnel in addressing law and policy, effective practices, and research-based interventions in the area of transition services for youth with disabilities. More information about Project 10 can be found on their website listed above.

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