

TRANSITION RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES

Items in *green print and italicized* should be prioritized starting in the IEP year when the student *turns 12*.

Transition Contacts

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What is Transition?

Secondary transition refers to the process a student with a disability goes through as they move from high school to whatever comes next, including postsecondary education, employment and independent living. In Florida, this ***begins at age 12 and may not end until 22***, pursuant to federal and state law.

The term “transition services” or “transition planning” **means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability** that:

- Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child’s movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported employment); continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living, or community participation
- Is based on the individual child’s needs, taking into account the child’s strengths, preferences, and interests; and
- Includes instruction, related services, community experiences, the development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives, and, if appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation.



SRC Transition Website

Santa Rosa County Transition Website offers resources for families of students with IEP’s to explore for post secondary opportunities.



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Career and Technical Opportunities

Career and technical education (**CTE**) programs are available in each Santa Rosa County middle and high school, as well as, at the district's postsecondary technical college, Locklin Tech. Students have the opportunity to participate in rigorous and relevant career education courses during their middle and high school years of study. These programs cultivate in demand technical skills, teach qualities necessary to become a valued employee and develop educational and career goals.



College Programs

Early College Programs offer high school students various ways to accelerate their education and work toward early graduation. These include:

- Dual Enrollment and Early Admission
- Credit by Examination
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)
- Florida Virtual School (FLVS)

These programs allow students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously, helping them get a head start on postsecondary goals.

Dual Enrollment allows eligible students to take college courses while still in high school, earning both high school and college credits. Students can attend part-time during or after school or in the summer. All tuition and fees are waived.

Early Admission is a full-time college enrollment option during the senior year of high school, offering the same dual credit benefits.

Santa Rosa Online Academy (SROA) serves full-time diploma-seeking students in the Santa Rosa County District Schools. With the guidance of an SROA counselor, students choose online courses needed for grade-level promotion or graduation. SROA students may combine:

- Santa Rosa Online (SRO) and Florida Virtual School (FLVS) courses
- Co-curricular classes at traditional schools
- Dual Enrollment at Pensacola State College (if eligible)
- They must also complete all required assessments for graduation.

Student Accessibility Resources at the University of West Florida and Pensacola State College support students with diagnosed disabilities by:

- Educating them about their rights and responsibilities
- Providing accommodations and services
- Promoting self-advocacy and equal access to educational opportunities

These services help ensure all students can work toward their academic and personal goals.



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School Based and District Based Transition Programs and Services

The SITE and SKILL Programs are designed to promote independence and increase employability for students with diverse abilities and can be achieved over multiple years, prior to the end of the school year the student turns 22. Project SEARCH, in particular, focuses on helping young adults with disabilities successfully transition from school into competitive, integrated employment. This is accomplished through a one-year, business-led internship program that provides real-world work experience and skill development to prepare participants for long-term success in a variety of industries, prior to the year the student turns 22.



Inclusive Post Secondary Programs

Florida's Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA) supports inclusive postsecondary education opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities. Several programs across Florida offer specialized training and support to help these students prepare for employment and greater independence.

Approved Florida Postsecondary Comprehensive Transition Programs (FPCTPs) include:

- Okaloosa UP at Okaloosa Technical College:

Okaloosa Technical College offers quality high school, career dual enrolled, and adult career and technical education programs featuring state of the art training facilities and professional, industry-certified instructors.

- Eagles Connection at Tallahassee Community College:

A fully inclusive program offering academic and career exploration, personal development, internships or work experience, and social activities—all designed to promote independence and employment success.

- SOAR (Success for Occupational Area Readiness) at Lively Technical College:

A program focused on preparing students for the workforce through occupational training and life skills development.



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Local Agency Information

Agency for Persons with Disability (APD) supports individuals with developmental disabilities (such as autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and others) so they can live, learn, and work in their communities. **The agency helps provide access to services like residential care, transportation, therapy, and job support.**

Division of Blind Services (DBS) assists individuals who are blind or visually impaired in achieving independence and employment. Services include mobility training, adaptive technology, vocational training, and education to support living and working independently.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) helps people with disabilities prepare for, find, and maintain employment. Services are customized based on individual needs and may include job training, career counseling, education support, assistive technology, and job placement services.

Center for Independent Living (CIL) promotes independent living for people with disabilities by providing peer support, advocacy, skills training, information and referral services, and help with transitions (such as from school to work or from institutions to home). They empower individuals to live self-directed lives.

SAFE Program The SAFE program is completely voluntary but your information can help save lives. **When a Deputy, EMS or Fire see the sticker or report tied to a license plate, address or driver's license, they know to approach with care.**

 VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION



 **apdcares**
CONNECTING YOU TO THE COMMUNITY



 **DIVISION OF BLIND SERVICES**
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION fldoe.org



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Additional Related Information

- **CareerSource Escarosa**

A nonprofit workforce board serving Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties. Provides free employment and training resources to job seekers and local employers as part of the CareerSource Florida Network.

- **FSU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD)**

Offers free support, resources, and training for individuals with autism or related disabilities, their families, and professionals to build community knowledge and capacity.

- **Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS)**

Provides support for exceptional student education through diagnostic services, technology assistance, parent support, professional development, and specialized evaluations.

- **SEDNET (Multiagency Network for Students with Emotional/Behavioral Disabilities)**

Connects schools and community agencies to support students with or at risk of emotional or behavioral challenges, aiming to ensure a strong system of care.

- **Project 10: Transition Education Network**

Supports Florida school districts in improving transition services for students with disabilities, focusing on academic success and life after high school.



Age of Majority



Guardianship



Deferral of Receipt of the Standard Diploma

