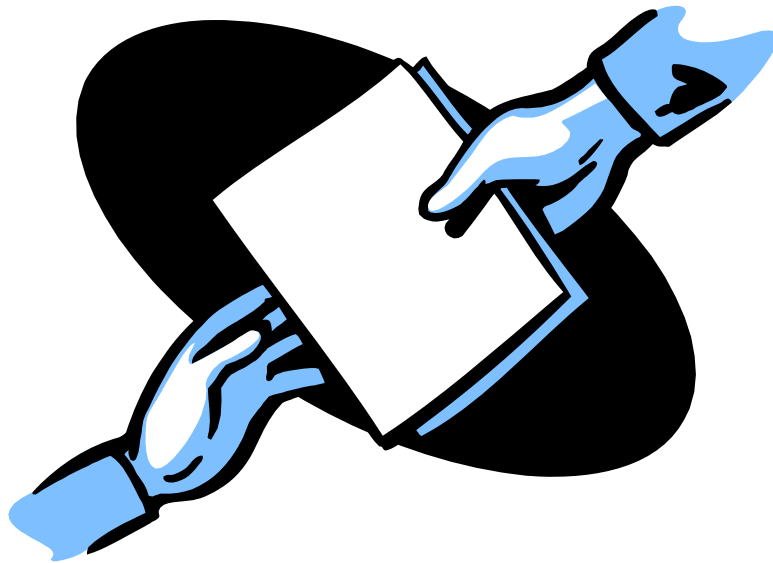


Transition Guide

For students with an IEP



This timeline is a best-practice guide of the essential steps in the transition process designed to assist students and families. It is not an absolute hierarchy; if a step is not accomplished at the suggested age, in most cases it can be pursued regardless of the student's age.

This Transition Guide was developed by the Chester County Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation Employment Coalition Transition Subcommittee

14 Years old:

- Transition goals in IEP – best practice to include student in IEP meetings, especially concerning transition aspects, as appropriate, based on need and plans to fade supports as able to prepare for maximum independence
- Outcomes to consider as appropriate:
 - Self-advocacy – understanding their disability and be able to communicate their needed accommodations
 - Employment and post-high school goals
 - Interviewing skills
 - Independent Living
 - Budgeting and finance, benefits
 - Transportation – understanding and accessing the public transportation system
- 14-21 years old: Youth Council, Workforce Investment Act – possible funding for job-readiness activities
- Register with Chester County Department of MR, complete a PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services)
- Working papers

16 Years old:

- Contact OVR if planning to graduate at 18
- Remember if continued services are needed and the individual graduates at age 18, the individual will have to private pay until he/she is eligible for MR funding at age 21 years; this funding is not guaranteed.

18 Years old:

- Apply for SSI as an adult, send notice to DPW if receiving Waiver Services
- Apply or reapply for Medical Assistance
- Contact private insurance regarding continued coverage
- Change doctors from pediatric to adult
- Access Benefits Planning as appropriate: Goodwill or AHEDD

19 Years old:

- Contact Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) at 484-250-4340 or 1-800-221-1042: community-integrated (or competitive) employment support services

21 Years old:

- Graduation – end of school funding, change from entitlement services to eligibility based services (no guarantee for funding)
- Wrap-around terminates; follow-up with Chester County MH/MR for fee-for service MH service options
- OVR - provides individualized services to assist individuals with disabilities pursue, obtain, and maintain employment

Research options for post high school education and transition:

- Shared Work, National Best Practice: www.sharedwork.org
- TransitionMap: www.transitionmap.org
- The Arc of Pennsylvania: www.thearca.org
- Organization for Autism Research (OAR): <http://www.researchautism.org>
- <http://www.thinkcollege.net/>

Chester County Contacts for Access to Services for Transition Aged Students:

- **Mental Retardation**- Julie Moyer, Intake Coordinator Chester County MH/MR 610-344-6327 jmoyer@chesco.org
- **Mental Health**- Gina Buckman, CASSP Coordinator Chester County MH/MR 610-344-6265. gbuckman@chesco.org
- **Education**- Sharon Shoemaker, Transition Coordinator Chester County Intermediate Unit 484- 237-5000. SharonS@cciu.org * Please note that each school district also has their own assigned Transition Coordinator. Maryann Amici CCIU Parent Mentor maryanna@cciu.org; 484-237-5000
- **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation**- John Gaddis, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation 1-800-221-1042 jgaddis@state.pa.us
- **Bureau of Autism Services**
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/Autism/AutismInitiatives/>
- **OBRA**
<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/PhysicalDisabilities/003670916.htm>
- **County Assistance Office** – Joyce Taylor, Executive Director Chester County Assistance Office 610-466-1000 joytaylor@state.pa.us.
Hotline: 1-800-692-7462
Chester County: 610-466-1000 <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us>
- **Social Security Office**
1-800- 772-1213 or www.socialsecurity.gov
- **Work Incentives and Benefits Management**
 - AHEDD, Southeastern, Pa, Michele Leahy, Transitional Work Incentive Coordinator 215-885-2060 (Ext. 407) or toll free 800-380-9682
 - Goodwill; Pennsylvania/Social Security Administration Benefits Counseling and Assistance Project (PASSABCO), 1-866-541-7005, corey@passabco.com
http://www.yourgoodwill.org/individuals/benefits_planning.html