

As your child gets older, the IEP team will design a program to help your child prepare for life when your child is finished with school. This is called secondary transition planning because planning is done through the IEP to facilitate the transition from school to the world of college (or postsecondary education), work, living independently, or other activities in which the young adult may be involved. Your child will learn the skills needed in the future while he or she is still in school.

Planning for the transition from school to adult living must begin when your child turns 14, or sooner if the IEP team thinks early planning would be appropriate. The IEP team (including your child, when your child turns 14) must discuss what you and your child want your child to be doing when high school is completed. These plans must include the kind of education or training your child will receive, the kind of job your child might have, where your child will live, and how your child will spend time in the community. Community agencies, like the Office for Vocational Rehabilitation, are often involved in this planning to give your child the most opportunities to be successful after high school.