



Transition Guide for Families

A guide for students in special education, parents/caregivers, educators and other professionals in the Northeast region.

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Introduction to Transition Services

The services in this manual focus on improving student and family knowledge and aim to facilitate movement from school to postsecondary services as they relate to student and family goals. This guide is to be reviewed with families at each annual IEP meeting. It can also be found on the school website.

- For questions regarding this Transition Guide, please contact Ann Atkins.
aatkins@northfloridaschool.org

Mission: To discover and foster each student's unique abilities revealing their highest potential in an engaged community.

Vision: We are the leading innovator in education creating wholeness for students with unique abilities. As a catalyst in our community, there is deeper acceptance and understanding that we are all more alike than different.



North Florida School of Special Education is a 501(c)(3) organization and is fully accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS).

Deferment of Diploma

Why Defer?

Deferring the receipt of a standard diploma is utilized for a student with a disability in order to continue to receive free, appropriate public education (FAPE).

In order to defer...

- 1) Student must have an IEP that states that they require services to succeed. This could be Transition or Special Education services.
- 2) Student must be enrolled in an educational program.

Examples of Educational Programs:

- NFSSE Transition or Post-Graduate program
- The On Campus Transition program at The University of North Florida. The OCT program provides an innovative college experience for young adults with IDD, while providing transformational learning experiences to university students.

When to defer?

- If a student will defer receipt of diploma, the request to defer must be received in writing by the school district by May 15th in order for the student to continue to receive transition or related services. The request to defer is only needed once.

NFSSE's Transition Program

The Transition program at North Florida School of Special Education is comprised of students 18-22 years of age with various intellectual and developmental differences. The program is designed to provide our older students with continued education, focusing predominately on vocational and independent living skills. Transition students continue to receive academic instruction in functional Reading and Math.



The main goal of the Transition program is to promote learning that directly links the young adult's educational program with his or her plans for the future. Instructional targets are addressed in the categories of Employability, Daily Living, Community Living, Personal Life and Lifelong Learning.

Our Transition teachers work together with employment specialists in order to individually assess each student and establish goals for personal success, and subsequently communicate and connect with the students to help them achieve these goals.

Services Provided

- Work-Based Learning Experiences
- Functional Academic Instruction
- Job Coaching
- Community Based Instructional Opportunities
- Social Skills and Independent living Classes

Project SEARCH

The North Florida School of Special Education partners with Vocational Rehabilitation, Medtronic, and Progressive Ability Support Services, to offer the Project SEARCH internship to our student population.

The Project SEARCH Transition-to-Work Program is a unique, business-led, one-year employment preparation program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Project SEARCH is designed to place students in a position to enter the workforce immediately after graduation.

- Total workplace immersion
- A combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations.
- The program culminates in individualized job development.

Student Requirements

- ✓ *Between the ages of 18-21*
- ✓ *Eligible for Medicare & Medicaid Services*
- ✓ *Has an IEP and deferred diploma*
- ✓ *Has applied for Vocational Rehabilitation & qualifies for supported employment*
- ✓ *Able to pass drug screening and background check*
- ✓ *Has a final goal (at the end of the internship) to find employment*

Vocational Rehabilitation

VR is a federal-state program that helps people with IDD get and keep a job. VR is committed to helping people with disabilities find meaningful employment. All students with a documented disability, ages 14 and up, can be referred for VR Pre-ETS services.

Referral Process

1. *Parent and Student review VR information on rehabworks.org/stw*
2. *Complete VR Referral form and return to Christy Iglesias (ciglesias@northfloridaschool.org)*
3. *School will then submit the referral.*
4. *VR staff will contact you to arrange a meeting (look for email addresses ending in @vr.fl DOE.org)*

Guardianship

When an individual becomes 18 years of age, they are considered an adult and they are 100% responsible for their action and decision that they make. In cases for individuals with IDD, parents/caretakers can seek guardianship after the age of 18 which is intended to protect the individual from making uninformed, deceptive decisions that can impact finances, health and other areas of life.

There are many levels to guardianship which range from less restrictive to more restrictive. Levels of guardianship can change based on changes of ability if the guardian sees fit. If chosen, guardianship can be obtained at 18 years of age.

For more information regarding guardianship and the civil rights associated with the different types of contact:

The Arc Jacksonville

Ask for Charlotte Temple or Deneise Torres

Phone #: (904) 358-1200

ctemple@arcjacksonville.org

dtorres@arcjacksonville.org

Med Waiver

The iBudget Florida waiver administered by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD) offers supports and services to assist individuals with IDD to live in their communities. Services are provided based on need. Some services require a professional assessment to determine the scope of treatment.

You can apply when your child is as young as 3 years old. The waitlist is long; however, they work off of crisis. This means if circumstances were to change and is deemed a crisis, your student would become active status and on the waiver.

Primary categories include:

- Life Skills Development
- Supplies and Equipment
- Personal Supports
- Residential Services
- Support Coordination
- Transportation
- Therapeutic Supports and Wellness
- Dental

Application for services:

<http://apd.myflorida.com/customers/application/>

Be sure to include the following documents with your student's completed Med Waiver application:

- Copy of Social Security
- Birth Certificate
- Proof of residence (such as ID card)
- Full scale IQ score with Adaptive Assessment/psychological Evaluation
- IEP from school before the age of 18

Keep a copy for your records.

Med Wavier Contacts

Send the required documents, along with the completed application, to Jennifer Fennell OR scan/email to northeast.eligibility@apdcares.org

Address:

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

1621 NE Waldo Rd., Building 1

Gainesville, FL 32609

(352) 955-6199

For question related to your application status, yearly check-ins, or any other inquires, contact:

- Belida Hoyt: belindahoyt@apdcares.org
- Arlene Gibbs: arlene.gibbs@apdcares.org
Phone #: (386) 254-3989
Fax #: (386) 238-4753

In your contact, include your student's first and last name, date of birth and the last 4 digits of their social security number.

Social Security

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) & Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

<https://www.ssa.gov/redbook/>

<u>SSI</u>	<u>SSDI</u>
<p>Provides cash assistance payments to individuals with limited income and resources. SSI is funded through general tax revenues.</p> <p><i>Individuals with differences can apply as a minor if circumstances suffice. Whether or not an individual receives as a minor, apply one month before 18th birthday as adult determination is required.</i></p>	<p>Provides benefits to persons with differences who are insured by worker's contributions to the Social Security trust fund. SSDI is funded through Disability Trust Fund. These contributions are based on the individual's earnings (or those of a spouse or parent). <i>DEPENDENTS MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS FROM THE PARENT/CARETAKER'S EARNINGS RECORD if circumstances suffice for requirements.</i></p>

Work Incentive Programs		
<p>For individuals with differences who are receiving SSI and desire to work, Social Security Administration provides incentives. Through these incentives, there are special rules that provides cash benefits and Medicare or Medicaid while the individual is entering the workforce.</p>		
Plan for Achieving Self Support (PASS)	Ticket to Work (TTW)	Impairment Related Work Expense (IRWE)
<p>Allows individuals to set aside income received in addition to SSI for a period of time so that employment goals may be pursued without impact on SSI or SSDI.</p>	<p>Innovative program for individuals with differences who want to be in the workforce.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases available choices when obtaining employment services, VR services and other supports that may be needed to maintain employment Free & voluntary 	<p>The cost of certain impairment-related items are deducted from gross earnings if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Item/service enables the individual to work The item/service is needed due to physical or cognitive differences The individual pays for the item/services and it is NOT reimbursed through other supports/services The cost is reasonable

Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA)

- Connexion, JTA's paratransit service, is a service under the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) for people with differences who are functionally unable to use the traditional fixed route bus service for some or all of their transportation needs. ADA hours of service are the same as those as JTA's fixed route service.
- The Connexion is *door to door pick up/drop off* and rides can be scheduled as needed for \$3 per ride.
- To obtain this additional transportation option for your child, contact the eligibility center at 904-265-6001.
- Application for JTA Connexion can be found at <https://www.jtafla.com/media/1589/web-ada-combined-file.pdf>
- Reservations for rides can be made at 904-265-6999
- *Reservations may be made daily, including weekends and holidays from 8am to 5pm.*

Florida Identification Card

- Florida residents who do not to operate motor vehicles can still obtain valid state identification. Getting an ID card in Florida is the only surefire way to provide a state-issued government identification card when necessary.
- Similar to a driver's license, *in order to get a Florida ID card for the first time, an applicant must visit an office of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles.* In addition, procedures to replace ID cards in Florida can also be handled through affiliate offices.
- For more information regarding Florida ID Cards, refer to: <http://floridadriverslicenses.org/licenses/id-cards.com>

