

IEP meeting. Services provided are: Vocational Evaluation and Assessment; Vocational Training; Vocational Counseling; Job Placement Assistance; and Supported Employment.

DVRS New Brunswick732-937-6300

Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI)

CBVI programs and services are available to any New Jersey resident who meets the vision criteria. Services provided are: Vocational Rehabilitation Services; and Independent Living Services

CBVI Central Office732-255-0720

Additional Resources

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)800-654-7726

New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services
for the Autism Community, Inc. (COSAC)800-4-AUTISM

The ARC of New Jersey732-246-2525

Agencies May Request The Following:

- A letter or statement from treating physician/psychologist/mental health professional verifying: Child's disability; Present status of condition; and Medical clearance to work.
- Names and addresses of doctors and hospitals that have treated your child.
- Names and dosages of medications your child currently takes.
- Current medical records you have on your child.
- Medical insurance card if you have one.
- If your child receives SSI or Social Security Disability benefits, an award letter or copy of your last check.
- Copy of your child's Social Security Card.
- If your child is not a citizen, green card or other documentation.

Prepared by:



MRESC

MIDDLESEX REGIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES COMMISSION
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Please visit our website at: www.mresc.k12.nj.us

A Parent/Guardian's Guide to the Transition Process

For Your Special Education Student

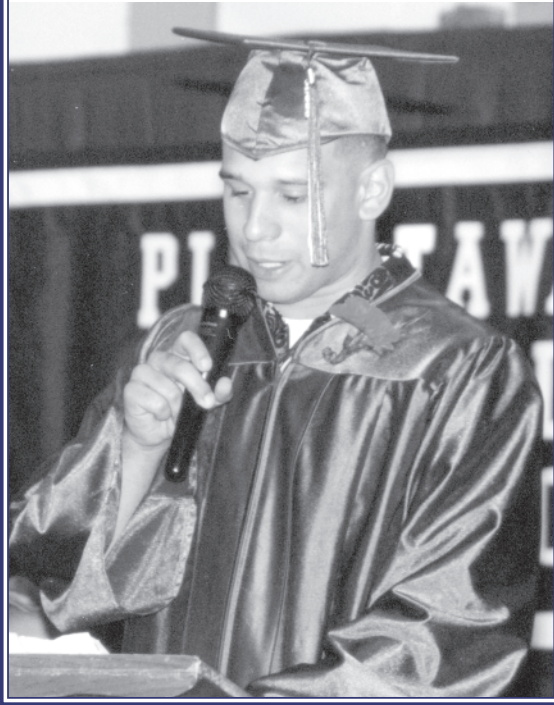
It Doesn't End Here . . .



School Is An Entitlement . . . Transition Services Are Not

The Time To Start The Transition Process Is NOW!

. . . It Begins



Start The Transition Early

The **parent/guardian** is the key to a successful transition process. Your child has spent years mastering skills to allow him/her to function as independently as possible both at home and in the community. When **parents** initiate the process by registering with the appropriate agency, this learning will continue in a post graduation program.

There's not as much time to begin the transition process as you think. The services are only available if you complete the registration process.

Waiting lists are possible at some agencies. To ensure a timely placement, request waiting list status at least two years prior to your child's graduation. A late start could lengthen your search and your first choice placement may no longer be an option. If a significant delay occurs between graduation and a transition placement, learned skills can deteriorate. This can also lead to your child's failure to meet program expectations resulting in an inability to qualify, or termination during the assessment period.

Parents Must Advocate

The agency process can be an overwhelming experience. The potential exists for becoming lost in what may seem to you to be a confusing system, unless you work at gaining knowledge about the system and advocate constantly for your child's needs.

Parental Responsibilities:

- If your child has significant disabilities, if not already registered, register now with the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD).
- By age 14, participate with your child in transition planning during annual IEP meeting.
- If applicable, by age 17, apply for legal guardianship (for a seriously disabled child) to be completed by the time the child becomes an adult at the age of 18.
- Two years prior to graduation, register with appropriate government agencies.
- Once registered, additional information regarding services and placement is available from your assigned case manager.

Government Agencies For Post Graduate Vocational Related Placement

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

To apply for services from DDD you must contact the Community Services Office in the county in which you live. You will be guided through the application process, and receive eligibility and service recommendations, information and referrals. Services provided are: Case Management; Guardianship Services; Family Support; and Post Graduation Services (provided on a waiting list basis).

DDD Community Service Offices

Somerset & Union County973-324-2000
Hunterdon, Mercer
& Middlesex Counties609-292-4500
Monmouth & Ocean Counties732-863-4500
Morris, Sussex & Warren Counties973-927-2600

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVRS)

The DVR offers services for select students based on their skill level and employability as discussed at the student's > > >

BE PERSISTENT

Expect delays. Most agencies are understaffed and the dedicated caseworkers are overworked.

Stay "on top" of the situation, and keep copies of every form you fill out and send to an agency.