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Disability Rights OHIO

We have the legal right of way.



- DRO is Ohio's federally mandated protection and advocacy agency.
- authority to provide legal advocacy, investigations of abuse/neglect, policy advocacy, outreach, and education.
- Take direction from the person with a disability, although the *input of parents* and guardians is important.



- The (IDEA) requires the provision of a free and appropriate public education
- Child Find- Evaluation-ETR
- Individualized Education Program IEP
- IEP includes plans for and provision of transition services to move from school to the community



Postsecondary transition item 4 on IEP

Starting age 14

Course of study

Diploma options

Extended time option

Academic and functional skills



- Age 16 and older (up to 22)
- Age appropriate transition assessments
 - Include assessment of functioning with accommodation and services available under Section 504 and the ADA
 - -Statewide, district and End of course assessment requirements



- Traditional diploma for post secondary
- How many credits and what subjects are required
- What about end of course assessments
- Course substitutions or modifications



• Eligibility for IDEA Special Education and related services) as a "child with a disability," a child's educational performance must be <u>adversely</u> <u>affected</u> due to the disability.



- Child Find means the district seeks out students who may have disabilities
- District the expense of evaluation
- Team determines disability category
- Team develops and implements an IEP
- District documents and maintains records
- Parent's rights to *participate in decisions*



Section 504 and the ADA

- a physical or mental impairment that **substantially limits** one or more major life activities.
- Reasonable accommodations when the student discloses their disability
- Disclosure includes documentation



- Individualized education program (IEP)
- Transition planning must be part of every students IEP after age 14
- As with an IEP, transition services must be individualized for each student
- Must be reviewed at least annually and revised as necessary



 Transition services must be coordinated and focused on improving the students academic and functional skills in such a way as to promote movement to postschool activities



• Transition assessments, goals and services must be provided to *all* students with disabilities, even those students with significant challenges.



- Transition Goals must:
 - Be based on age appropriate assessment of the individual needs of the student
 - Must take into account the student's strengths, preferences and interests.
 - Objectively measurable
 - There must be a post secondary goal for each area of transition: training, education, employment
 - And independent living (if needed)



- First step in Transition Planning age appropriate transition assessments
 - Training
 - Education
 - Employment and
 - Independent living skills /functional vocational assessment if needed.



- Transition services include:
 - -Instruction
 - Related services
 - -Community experiences
 - Development of employment objectives
 - Development of adult-living objectives
 - Acquisition of daily living skills
 - -Functional vocational evaluation

Not just limited to school setting!



- Services may include:
 - -Required courses
 - -Elective courses
 - -Modified courses
 - -Specially designed courses
 - Educational experiences in the school or community



- Be sure to be familiar with the requirements for post secondary education
- What type of diploma are you earning?
- Do you need to take the ACT/SAT other
- Explore courses that will provide both high school and college credit at once
- Summer experiences/opportunities



Opportunities to plan for transition

- Start now as your student moves from grade to grade,
- Building to building
- Teacher to teacher
- Program to program



• In Ohio, one year before student reaches turns 18 the school district must inform the student that their IDEA rights will transfer to them when they turn 18.

Unless determined legally incompetent



• Student is most important member of the team.

• If meeting is about transition, schools *must* invite the student to the meeting.

Outside agencies



- Assessing student's interests, preferences in transition
- What if student doesn't know what they want to do after graduation?



- self advocacy
- Increase effective communication for the student to share needs

 Understanding of their own disability and when to share



• <u>If</u> it is needed for <u>FAPE</u>

• Students with disabilities who have all their academic credits, but still need transition services can defer their diploma to receive transition services.



Knowing when to leave

- Did you plan your course of study to take more than four years to prepare?
 - Split courses like algebra
 - Lighter course load to meet requirements
 - Repeating a course for a passing grade



- Do you have functional needs that have not been addressed during academics?
 - Can the student learn to use technology and reduce reliance on a human support?
 - Can the student safely us public transportation?
 - Does the student have effective emergency skills?



- Parents are transitioning too!!
- Less control and more expectations!!
- Increase student independence!!
 - -Let them do more for themselves
 - -Make more decisions
 - Use technology safely to increase independence



- Are you eligible for services from the community that could begin now? Soon?
 - DODD
 - -OOD
 - SSA
 - Medicaid



ODE: Parents Rights Notice

• http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education
Education/A-Guide-to-Parent-Rights-in-Education
Special-Education



- Remedy options for conflict
 - ODE

http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Special-Education/Dispute-Resolution

- Early resolution
- Facilitation
- Mediation
- Complaint
- Due Process Hearing



- DRO Publications
- Start Transition Early
- http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/blog/tra nsition-services-should-begin-early
- FAQ for Transition
- http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/assets/d ocuments/sped_transition_planning.pdf?pdf =SpEd_Transition_Planning



- Disability Rights Ohio
 200 Civic Center Drive, Suite 300
 Columbus, OH 43215
- http://www.disabilityrightsohio.org/
- Phone: <u>614-466-7264</u> or <u>1-800-282-9181</u> (Toll free in Ohio only)
- TTY: <u>614-728-2553</u> or <u>1-800-858-3542</u> (Toll free in Ohio only)
- Fax: <u>614-644-1888</u> Online Intake Form