

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW Transition Rights for *all* 14 and 15 year olds!
(Chapter 205 of the Acts of 2008)

In August, Governor Patrick signed a **new law** (S.286) which requires school districts to initiate special education **transition planning and transition services at age 14**, rather than age 16. We applaud law-makers for this critical legislation, as delay until age 16 (the middle of high school) is too late to facilitate effective transition planning.

What to do if you work with a student 14 or 15 year old?

- Convene an *IEP meeting* to discuss transition using the Transition Planning Form
 - Note: The IEP Transition Planning Form is simply a planning document, and is **not** included in the IEP
- Make sure a *transition assessment* has been requested (in writing) to address transition goals, objectives, and services
- Make sure that the students' IEP includes measurable *IEP transition goals and objectives* related to
 - Training
 - Education
 - Employment
 - Independent living, as appropriate
- Consider the *transition services* that will help meet their transition goals and facilitate movement to post-school activities, including:
 - Instruction
 - Related services
 - Community experience
 - Development of employment (including integrated supported employment) and other post-school adult living objectives
 - Acquisition of daily living skills
 - Functional vocational evaluation

Be sure to list specific transition services in the IEP.

- Transition goals and services must be based on the students' needs, taking into account their *strengths, preferences, and interests*.
- Invite student to the IEP Team meeting. If the student doesn't attend, take other steps to ensure that the student's preferences and interests are considered.

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