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 lawmakers 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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