By the time your child turns 16, his/her Individualized Education Program (IEP) is focused on transition services. Transition planning, however, can and should begin as early as age 14.

The transition plan charts a course for graduation and life after high school, with measurable goals related to post-secondary education, employment, independent living, housing, and community participation.

The transition plan is created by the IEP team (with your son/daughter’s participation). It identifies the skills, services and supports necessary to reach the student’s goals.

It’s a lot to consider, but you are not alone. Organizations such as PAVE (wapave.org) and Parent to Parent (arwca.org/getsupport) can help guide your way.

For a list of other high school transition resources and publications, visit: informingfamilies.org.

### Transition Goals (at a Glance)

The transition plan drives your son/daughter’s IEP and successful transition to life as an adult. Ask yourself what instruction, support and services are needed to achieve goals related to:

- Employment and/or Post Secondary Education
- Independent Living Skills (e.g., money management, decision-making, shopping, cooking, using the bus)
- Housing/In-Home Support
- Social/Recreational
- Financial/Legal
- Health & Safety

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### Transition Timeline

**Age 14**
- Begin transition planning.
- Include the student in planning.

**Age 15-16**
- Apply for a WA State I.D. card.

**Age 16**
- Begin transition services.
- Be sure to include self-determination and self-advocacy goals in the IEP.
- Determine graduation date.

**Age 18**
- Register to vote.
- Open checking account.
- Apply for SSI benefits.
- Enroll in Medicaid.
- If appropriate, begin guardianship petition.

**Age 18-19**
- Enroll in High School Transition program until age 21, or continue on to post-secondary education.

**Final Year of School**
- Request long-term employment supports from DDA. Depending on available funding, services may be available at age 21.
- Apply for employment services from DVR.

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