



## Checklist

- Age 14-21:**  
Attend annual IEP meeting. Identify long term goals (post-secondary education, employment, independent living- if appropriate, etc.)
- Age 14-21:**  
If a student has developmental disabilities, apply for or update Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) eligibility status.
- Age 14-21:**  
Organize and regularly update a file of student's school and medical records, benefits, employment/volunteer experiences.
- Age 16:**  
If college bound, identify colleges that provide needed supports and accommodations for students with disabilities. Meet with school counselor to register for required tests/assessments, attend college fairs, visits college campuses. Ask about required documentation to qualify for accommodations at particular colleges. ***(Colleges expect the student, not the parent, to take the lead in requesting accommodations.)***
- Age 16:**  
Register with the One Stop Job Market's Workforce Development Office for employment assistance if you need assistance finding a job. Remember, students who have had some work experience prior to graduation have a greater chance of obtaining and maintain employment.

- Grade 11 or the year before the student will exit:**  
A referral, **if appropriate**, will be made to the Division of Rehabilitation Services (**DORS**). Please follow up to determine eligibility for services. If eligible, DORS may begin to serve the student while they are still in the last year of high school. Some services they provide include vocational assessments, training, employment resources.

- Age 16:**  
If the student is not getting a driver's license, obtain a Maryland ID card at your local Motor Vehicle Administration office.

- Age 17:**  
Develop a plan to change from pediatric to adult service providers for physical and mental health care.



- Age 18:**  
Register to vote.

- Age 18:**  
Inquire about continuing medical insurance benefits for an adult child with disabilities. Can a disabled adult child remain on the family plan? What documentation is needed?

- Age 18:**  
Males must register with Selective Service.



- Age 18:**  
Age of majority in Maryland. In Parental Rights Handbook explains parents do not lose their educational rights. In other areas such as with health care providers, individuals are entitled to make their own decisions, unless under guardianship. Work with student, health care providers and others to maintain parental access to vital information; obtain guardianship if necessary.

- Age 18:**  
If the student is already receiving SSI Benefits, new disability and financial standards apply at age 18. (under age 18, family income and assets are considered in determining eligibility). At age 18 only the individual's income and assets are considered, even if the student is living with a parent or other family member.

- Age 20:**  
Inquire about other SSI Benefits and programs: Student Earned Income Exclusion, Impairment Work Related Expenses, PASS (Plan for Achieving Self-Support), Ticket to Work, Medicaid for working people (1619b), and Medicaid Waiver for Home and Community Based Services (1915c).

- Age 20:**  
Students leaving school at age 21 who are eligible for DDA may be able to receive support services through the Transitioning Youth Initiative. The family should begin to visit and interview potential providers and identify choices by October of the exit year.

## Resources- Government Agencies/Support Services

**Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) Eastern Shore Regional Office/Eligibility & Access**  
Adult support services/case management  
<http://www.ddamaryland.org>  
410-572-5986

**Maryland Department of Education Division of Rehabilitation Service (DORS)**  
<http://www.dors.state.md.us>  
410-546-1580 (Salisbury, MD office)

**DORS Client Assistance Program Advocacy Help with Rehabilitation Services**  
[cap@dors.state.md.us](mailto:cap@dors.state.md.us)  
1-800-638-6243

**Social Security Administration SSI/SSDI**  
[www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov)  
1-800-772-1213

**WOR- WIC Community College Services For Students with Disabilities**  
Karen Mohler  
[kmohler@worwic.edu](mailto:kmohler@worwic.edu)  
410-334-2900

**Wicomico County Board of Education**  
Transition Specialist, Barbara Bell  
[bcbell@wcboe.org](mailto:bcbell@wcboe.org)  
410-677-4430

## Helpful Hints

- Keep current records:
  - Personal information (SS#)
  - Medical records/medications
  - Eligibility letters
  - Report cards
  - IEPs
  - Psychological evaluations
  - Awards, letters of recognition
  - Exit documents
  - Student experience (employment and volunteer)
  - Workplace skills
  - Job training
  - Resume and references
- Network as much as possible with other parents and students and adult service providers.
- Join disability advocacy and support groups to exchange ideas and work for needed services.
- Get involved in career exploration, internships and job shadowing, housing/independent living skills, travel training, self-advocacy, social skills training and just having fun!
- More resources plus support and advocacy contact Barbara Bell, Transition Specialist, Wicomico County Public Schools at [bcbell@wcboe.org](mailto:bcbell@wcboe.org)

(May be duplicated and distributed)



Are You Ready?

## A Transition Checklist For Students With Disabilities & Their Families

*Students with disabilities are **entitled** to special services.*

*Adults with disabilities must apply and be **eligible** for special services.*

### This guide includes:

- ◆ **An action timeline starting at age 14**
- ◆ **Resources**
- ◆ **Helpful Hints**