

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PARENTS REGARDING YOUR CHILD'S TRANSITION

- Listen and support your child when discussing their interests and future goals, even if their ideas may seem unrealistic.
- Emphasize through family and home activities the basic skills needed to succeed in school and the workplace, such as: organization, decision making, time management, problem solving, and getting along with others.
- Encourage career related activities during your child's spare time, such as volunteering at a hospital, babysitting, paper route, etc.
- During transition planning meetings, provide the Transition Team with information regarding your child's skills and behaviors at home, past experiences, and dreams and goals for your child.
- Encourage your child to be a major player on the Transition Team and to talk about their interests, dreams and goals.

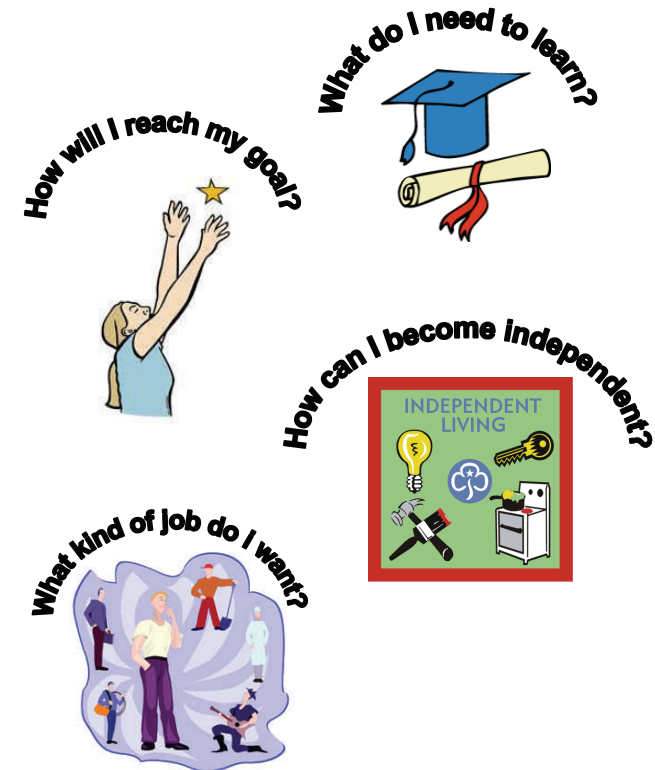


St. Mary's School for the Deaf will contact parents/guardians to schedule the student's Transition planning meeting.

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## Transition Team



**Planning and Preparing  
Your Child for Life After  
High School**

## What is Transition Planning?

When a student completes high school, it is a transition into adulthood where the most common choices for the future are college or vocational training, employment, and living independently. For students with disabilities, these choices may require a great deal of planning.

This can be a very exciting time, but also a period of uncertainty for the parents and the student who will be faced with many questions and decisions regarding various issues including housing, future employment and/or education, transportation, finances, and recreation/leisure.

Transition planning is a process used to prepare students to make the transition from the world of school to the world of adulthood. It is a cooperative effort between the school, the student, the family, and the community agencies.



## How does Transition Fit in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP)?

Planning the transition from the school to adult life begins, at the latest, during high school. In New York State, transition services are required to be part of the student's IEP when that student turns 14 years of age (or younger if appropriate), and updated annually.

Transition services are a coordinated set of activities which are designed to prepare the student for outcomes that are envisioned for the student in adult life.

Adult outcomes may include:

- Postsecondary education
- Employment
- Vocational Training
- Adult Education
- Adult Services
- Independent Living
- Community Participation

The set of activities for each student needs to be based on the student's individual needs, preferences, and interests. The activities must include instruction, community experiences, and development of employment or other post-secondary adult living objectives.

## The Transition Team at St. Mary's School for the Deaf

Each year, parents and middle/high school students are invited to participate in a meeting with the Transition Team at St. Mary's School for the Deaf to discuss these adult outcomes. At this meeting, the student and their parents have an opportunity to discuss the student's academic progress, career interests, their current abilities and challenges, what their plans, if any, are for life after high school, and what is needed to help the student achieve their goals.

Members of the Transition Team provide a variety of knowledge and experience to assist the student and parents in making an informed decision about the student's transition from high school into adulthood.

### Some Questions to Consider in Transition Planning

- What does the student need to do in order to meet their academic & vocational goals?
- Where will the student live?
- Will the student be able to manage their financial affairs?
- Will the student have the skills and resources to transport themselves around the community?
- Will the student be able to advocate for their communication needs?
- What additional services does the student need?