



Maryland State Agency Transition Collaborative
Checklist of Recommended Transition Documents and Tools for Families

This tool assists local school Transition Professionals and IEP leads in providing key information to students and families at the appropriate points in time. SATC members will review and update it annually and provide it to MSDE for distribution to local LEAs as well as distributing it to frontline staff, families, and other local partners engaged in the transition process.

Annually for every student provide the following

1. Maryland SATC Transition Timeline Fillable PDF (also available as a folder)
<https://www.ppmmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Transition-To-Adulthood-Guide-Fillable.pdf>
2. MD PROMISE Resource Guide <https://mdtransitions.org/transition-guide/>
Available in Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, and Haitian Creole
3. PARENT INFORMATION SERIES Special Education Services in Maryland:
Secondary Transition Planning
https://marylandpublicschools.org/programs/Documents/Special-Ed/FSDR/Parent%20Information%20Series/Secondary-Transition-V5_A.pdf

Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

Refer annually starting at age 14 if application has not already been made or changes have occurred.

1. Pre ETS/VR Fact Sheet
<https://dors.maryland.gov/consumers/specialized/transition/Pages/default.aspx>
2. Application for Pre ETS or Vocational Rehabilitation Services
<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/5391921/DORS-Online-Referral-for-Direct-Input-Into-AWARE>

Provide annually to students as appropriate

Developmental Disabilities Agency (DDA)

Refer annually starting at age 14 if not sooner until eligibility is confirmed.

1. DDA Eligibility Fact Sheet
https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/DDA_Eligibility_Application_Process.aspx
2. Application for DDA Services
https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/Developments/2015/dda_ea_application.pdf
3. Choosing your CCS (to be developed)

*One year prior to Exit from school ensure families have applied and that they understand they have one year after exit to find a provider. They may want to consider self-direction if they are having difficulties finding a provider. **One year prior to Exit, ensure families have applied and that they understand they have one year after exit to get into services, either with a provider or through self-direction. One-year post school, if not placed into service, their DDA eligibility may end resulting in the individual being placed onto the DDA waiting list.***

A. Selecting an Adult Service Provider

<https://www.ppmmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Selecting-Adult-Provider-TRAN-6.2020.pdf>

For youth and families interested in work, they may want to look at provider employment outcome data https://www.statedata.info/mdda/charts/provider_individual_1.php

B. Self-Directed Services https://health.maryland.gov/dda/Pages/FAQ_about_Self-Direction.aspx

Maryland Department of Labor (Labor)/local America's Job Centers (AJC)

Annually starting at age 16

AJC's are Federally funded, locally controlled and are intended to aid and support all job seekers. Some services have additional eligibility requirements and some locations offer summer youth employment. If a youth is not eligible for DORS or DDA, they should be encouraged to connect with their local AJC. To locate the closest AJC and to get information on services/eligibility specific to your county visit:

<https://www.labor.maryland.gov/county/>

Maryland Workforce Exchange also is a resource to locate job opportunities for students.

<https://mwejobs.maryland.gov/vosnet/default.aspx>

MD Department of Human Services (DHS)

Bi-annually starting at age 14 limited to youth in Foster Care.

Starting at age 14, a youth in foster care is required to create a youth transitional plan, reviewed every 6 months until they leave care (up until 30 days before their 21st birthday).

<https://mylife.mymdthink.maryland.gov/maryland-youth-transition-plan/>

MD Department of Health Behavioral Health Administration (BHA)

Eligibility varies but prior to age 25 as needed

The Child, Adolescent and Young Adult Services (CAYAS) Division is charged with developing a system of care for young people and their families ranging from early childhood all the way through the time when young people reach the age of majority and legally become adults.

Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Services website:

<https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/Child,Adolescent%20and%20Young%20Adult%20Services.aspx>

Contact your local behavioral health administration to get information on what behavioral health and substance use services/resources are available ages, birth to 25. **See below:**

Current as of 06/23

Various BHA Directories: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/pages/Directories.aspx>

Mental Health: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Documents/MABHA%20August%202022.docx>

Substance Use: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Documents/Prevention%20Coordinators.pdf>

Maryland's 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: <https://health.maryland.gov/bha/Pages/988md.aspx>

Higher Education

Anyone with a high school diploma can attend a community college, other colleges, and programs which have different eligibility/entrance requirements. Ensure that students and families know that the student is responsible for requesting accommodations and the accommodations they may be eligible for may be different from the types of supports and services they were eligible for and received in high school. Data indicates that students who connect with the Disability Resource Services at college are 50% more likely to successfully graduate. The student will need copies of their most current IEP or 504 plan as well as any additional documentation. Institutions may require documentation that is more current.

For information on how to request accommodations at college:

<https://mdtransitions.org/receiving-accommodations-at-college/>

Families should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible making certain to include any disability related expenses as it is typically required as a first step prior to accessing other funding such as waivers. Funding for college for individuals with disabilities is limited so families may want to consider saving for college via a Maryland ABLE or 529 plan. Students on Social Security Benefits Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) may be eligible for tuition waivers at community colleges, in addition to any financial aid. For more information:

Community College Tuition Waivers for Students receiving SSI/SSDI

https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_disabilities.aspx

Families can save for their students' futures in a similar way to saving for their college education.

Maryland ABLE

<https://www.marylandable.org/>

Allowed families and individuals with disabilities to save for qualified disability related expenses without jeopardizing Federal or state means tested benefits such as SSI or Medicaid.

Community College Tuition Waivers for Students receiving SSI/SSDI

https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_disabilities.aspx

Assistive Technology (AT)

Students who use AT in high school should be aware that if the school has provided the AT, it does not transfer with them. It is important to be prepared for the transition and to ensure the students and their family have a plan in place, complete this checklist, and keep a copy as part of their Transition documents they take with them as they exit school.

Current as of 06/23

<https://mdod.maryland.gov/mdtap/Documents/AT%20School%20Transition%20Checklist-%20fillable%20accessible.pdf>

Social Security Benefits

If a youth is on SSI, they should be aware they will have to be re-determined at age 18 with different criteria. For more information: <https://mdtransitions.org/changes-in-benefits-when-you-turn-18/>

If a student or family thinks the youth cannot have a post school goal of employment because of loss of benefits, they should know that individuals on SSI could earn money through work and not jeopardize important benefits. They can be referred to as benefits counseling, also known as work incentives counseling. Additional information and how to be connected with a knowledgeable counselor is available at: <https://mdtransitions.org/benefits/>

Maryland Service Corps

<https://dsci.maryland.gov/>

This new initiative is open to recent high school graduates with a diploma, a GED or certificate. This program places individuals in service roles throughout the state and is an excellent opportunity as an alternative to attending college or starting a career. Participants will be paid \$15 an hour for their work (with a minimum of 30 hours a week) and receive mentorship and job training during their service as well as a stipend of up to \$6000 upon completion (which can be placed in a MD 529 or Able Account). This offers a post school option for students not going to college, including those who may not be eligible or are wait listed for DORS services. It is also open to students who exit school with a certificate and apply for/receive DDA or other state funded services including self-direction. Reasonable accommodations will be provided. If funded for work/community support, those services should be available/provided in conjunction with the service year.

Additional resources for families/youth:

Maryland Coalition of Families

Transition resource guide developed for families of youth with mental health needs.

<https://www.mdcoalition.org/navigating-the-transition-years-a-handbook-for-families-of-young-adults-with-mental-health-needs/>

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