

## Illinois State Board of Education's Definition of Transition Services

a) Transition services means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that:

1. is designed within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate movement from school to post school activities, including post-secondary education, vocational education, integrated employment, continuing and adult education, adult services, independent living or community participation.

2. is based on the individual child's needs, taking into account the child's strengths, preferences and interests;

<http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/pdfs/comparison.pdf>

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## Preparing for Life After High School at Connections Academy East

**Transition Planning:** At Connections Academy East, we develop and integrate activities into our school day designed to meet our students' unique needs and prepare them for future education, employment and independent living.

**Transition Group:** All high school students enrolled at CAE are scheduled to attend a weekly transition group which focuses on students developing a positive vision of their life after high school. Over the course of the academic year, the curriculum addresses the following: career self-assessment & exploration, self-determination & IEP training, college & training exploration, and basic job searching & maintaining employment.

**Transition Assessments:** High school students complete yearly self-assessments to help them determine their own career interests, values, learning style, academic strengths, [employability](#), college readiness and independent living skills.

**Vocational Counselor:** High School Seniors meet with a Vocational Counselor to discuss transition planning through a holistic approach. With support, students discover career interests, assess skills, identify barriers, learn how to advocate for accommodations, and determine possible post-secondary linkages, and facilitate these linkages when applicable. Together they create a personalized portfolio of post-secondary resources for the student to utilize upon graduation.

**Transition Coordinator:** All students and their families have access to the Transition Coordinator to develop transition plans, provide community resources, connect with post-secondary programs, and facilitate movement from our setting to their next appropriate placement.

**On-Campus Supported Work Experiences:** As an extension of our high school self-contained classroom, we provide an opportunity to practice vocational skills and vocational behaviors at Sweet Tweets Cafe. Students participating in this class will receive instruction of employability skills and functional skills in a supported setting to prepare them for future community work.

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| <p>Autism Speaks - Transition Tool Kit<br/> <a href="https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Transition%20Tool%20Kit.pdf">https://www.autismspeaks.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/Transition%20Tool%20Kit.pdf</a></p> <p>PACER - National Parent Center on Transition and Employment<br/> <a href="https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/">https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/</a></p> <p>Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services - Transition Guide<br/> <a href="https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/postsecondary-transition-guide-may-2017.pdf">https://sites.ed.gov/idea/files/postsecondary-transition-guide-may-2017.pdf</a></p>  | <p>Post-Secondary Planning Resources for Parents</p> |
| <p>Community Alternatives Unlimited<br/> <a href="http://www.cau.org/">http://www.cau.org/</a></p> <p>DayOne Pact<br/> <a href="http://dayonepact.org/">http://dayonepact.org/</a></p> <p>Options and Advocacy for McHenry County<br/> <a href="https://www.optionsandadvocacy.org/">https://www.optionsandadvocacy.org/</a></p> <p>Lake County Center for Independent Living<br/> <a href="https://www.lccil.org/">https://www.lccil.org/</a></p> <p>Department of Rehabilitation Services<br/> <a href="https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29736">https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=29736</a></p> <p>Lake County Behavioral Health Services<br/> <a href="https://www.lakecountyil.gov/684/Behavioral-Health-Services">https://www.lakecountyil.gov/684/Behavioral-Health-Services</a></p> | <p>Adult Community Agencies &amp; Linkages</p>       |
| <p>Lake County Find Help<br/> <a href="http://findhelplc.org/">http://findhelplc.org/</a></p> <p>Illinois Department of Human Services: PUNS<br/> <a href="http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131">http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=41131</a></p> <p>Job Accommodation Network<br/> <a href="https://askjan.org/">https://askjan.org/</a></p> <p>Illinois WorkNet Centers<br/> <a href="https://www.illinoisworknet.com/pages/worknetprograms.aspx">https://www.illinoisworknet.com/pages/worknetprograms.aspx</a></p> <p>Sibling and Leadership Network<br/> <a href="https://siblingleadership.org/">https://siblingleadership.org/</a></p> <p>National Center for College Students with Disabilities</p>   | <p>Resources Quick Links</p>                         |

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| <p><a href="http://www.nccsdonline.org/">http://www.nccsdonline.org/</a></p> <p>The Arc of Illinois<br/> <a href="https://www.illinoislifespan.org/">https://www.illinoislifespan.org/</a></p> <p>Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission<br/> <a href="https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gac/aboutus/pages/guardfaq.aspx">https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/gac/aboutus/pages/guardfaq.aspx</a></p> <p>Supplemental Security Income<br/> <a href="https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/">https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/</a></p> <p>Medicaid<br/> <a href="https://www.medicaid.gov/">https://www.medicaid.gov/</a></p> |  |
| <p>Choices Fair<br/> <a href="https://postsecondarychoices.org/">https://postsecondarychoices.org/</a></p> <p>Directions Fair<br/> <a href="http://directionscollegeandcareerfair.org/">http://directionscollegeandcareerfair.org/</a></p> <p>Options Fair<br/> <a href="http://www.consideroptions.org/">http://www.consideroptions.org/</a></p>  | <p>Transition Planning<br/> Events</p> |