



Macomb Intermediate School District

**Student
and parent**

**transition
planning
guide**

for MACOMB COUNTY



table of contents

An Introduction	1
Transition—the Law	2
Transition Planning	3
Participants in Transition Planning	4
The Student	4
The Family	5
The Community Agencies	7
The School	7
Related Topics	8
Age of Majority	8
Guardianship	8
Deferred Diploma and Post-Secondary Options	8
Supplemental Security Income	9
Acknowledgements	10
Agency Contact Log	11



preface

According to the Michigan Revised Administrative Rules for Special Education, “Transition Services” means a coordinated set of activities for a student designed within an outcome-oriented process which promotes movement from school to post-school activities, including post-secondary education; vocational training; integrated employment, supported employment; continuing and adult education; adult services; independent living; or community participation. This coordinated set of activities is based on the individual student’s needs, takes into account the student’s preferences and interests, and includes activities in all the following areas.

- Instruction
- Community experiences
- Development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives
- Acquisition of daily living skills and functional vocational evaluation

This document has been developed by representatives of the Macomb Intermediate School District, its constituent districts, parents and community agencies. The goal of the Committee was to present a clear meaningful and understandable transition document. Their work represents the most recent research and best practices available in order to ensure those parents and their student with special needs have current information as they transition from school to adult life.

We are appreciative of the work done by the individuals from various organizations. Their insights, knowledge, dedication and commitment are the qualities that represent all the personnel serving students and young adults throughout Macomb County.

Beth Alberti

Assistant Superintendent

Special Education and Student Services
Macomb Intermediate School District



an introduction . . .

*“Transition”
means moving
from one place,
stage, or
relationship to
another.*

Every person experiences transition throughout his or her life. The transition to a different classroom, new school building, or from school to community is a process that all students go through. It represents a major change in the student’s life. You and your family are now coming to a challenging and exciting time, and it is important for students and families to plan and make decisions about the future.

- Transitions occur throughout life.
- Transitions often are stressful.
- Transitions may be made easier with planning.
- Transitions may be a time of growth.

The purpose of this booklet is to introduce you to transition planning and to be a useful guide to help answer questions.

- What is transition planning?
- Where can I go for vocational assistance?
To find a job?
- What can I do with my free time?
- Where can I live?
- How can I get further training?
- What is a deferred diploma?
- What community agencies may be able to assist me in reaching my goals?

For more information, please contact the Director of Special Education, teacher, or transition coordinator at your local district.

transition— the law



The law now requires transition planning for all students who receive special education services to begin at the age of fourteen and to be updated annually. Since transition often requires future use of community resources and agency services, it is important that transition planning include the community agencies early in the process.

The school will schedule a meeting and invite (or share information about) the agencies that are likely to be involved in the transition process.

Transition works best when the student, parents, family, school, and agencies all work together.

Further information can be found at the Michigan Department of Education website (cdp.mde.state.mi.us) or call the Michigan Department of Education at **517-373-3324**.



transition planning

What

Transition Planning is a process for a student to choose programs and services addressing adult life goals. It may include the following four areas:

Employment

Career Awareness
Vocational Evaluation
Career Exploration

Post-School Adult Living

Living Arrangements
Personal/Family support
Self-Care
Money Management
Social Skills

Community Participation

Mobility
Recreation and Fitness
Organizations
Advocacy

Post-Secondary Education

College
Community Education
Technical Training
Military
Deferred Diplomas

Why

A transition plan is done to increase the likelihood of success in adult life. The process is important because it brings together schools, families, and community agencies in a joint effort to plan the most appropriate path to adult life.

Where

The process of planning occurs at the Individualized Educational Planning Team (IEPT) meeting. This process will be coordinated by the school system.

participants in transition planning



The Student

The student's active participation as a member of the Transition/IEPT is NECESSARY!

As the most important member of the planning team, the student needs to guide the process as much as possible.

By the time the student is in high school, it is expected that the student is responsible for:

- Attending and participating at the Transition/IEPT meeting
- Expressing opinions, making choices, and asking questions
- Gathering information about schools and service providers
- Identifying interests, abilities, and desires for future goals
- Determining assistance that may be needed to reach transition goals

Before leaving the school system, the student should obtain high school transcripts and evaluations (last MET/IEP). It is important that you always keep copies of these records.

The Community Agencies

Agencies can help the family decide what services the student will need for support in adult life.

The community agencies are responsible for:

- Providing information on services available
- Implementing programs/services for eligible clients

When working with community agencies be aware that:

- There will be an application process
- Records from school, doctors, and other agencies may be requested
- Records should be kept regarding agency contacts (see page 11)
- Records on employment, letters of recommendation, and current resume should be kept on file

The School

The school is responsible for coordinating activities that will help each student move into adult life.

The school will be responsible for:

- Providing a curriculum that prepares students for adult life
- Identifying transition issues and developing a plan for the student to reach these goals
- Listening to information provided by the student and family
- Providing assessments of the student's abilities and current information from teachers
- Providing information about agencies available in the community
- Collaborating with agencies

related topics



Age of Majority

Beginning one year before the student reaches the age of 18, the student must be informed of his or her rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These rights will transfer to the student upon reaching the age of majority.

Guardianship

Guardianship is a legal issue that may need to be addressed by the time a student reaches the age of 18. Your county probate court can provide further information.

Post-Secondary Options

Students who complete academic requirements may continue vocational services by contacting their special education teacher, school counselor or special education director.

Supplemental Security Income

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a program administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSI is a program that pays monthly benefits to people with low incomes and with limited assets who are 65 or older, or to people who have a disability, including some children who meet certain other requirements.

How can I find more information on SSI?

- 1.) Call your local Social Security Office and make an appointment to apply for benefits.
- 2.) Call Social Security's toll-free number 1-800-772-1213.



acknowledgements

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agency contact log



Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Date Called _____

Results _____

Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Date Called _____

Results _____

Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Date Called _____

Results _____

Agency _____

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Results _____

Agency _____

Contact Person _____

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Results _____

Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Date Called _____

Results _____

Agency _____

Contact Person _____

Date Called _____

Results _____

notes



Student and Parent Transition Planning Guide for Macomb County is a brochure published for parents and students in Macomb County local school districts and Macomb Intermediate School District. Published by the Macomb County Association of Administrators of Special Education Interagency Transition Council.

It is the policy of the MISD that no person on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, height, weight, marital status or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible.



Macomb Intermediate School District

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We're the Macomb Intermediate School District.

We exist to provide our clients quality service, high caliber support and cutting edge leadership.

Our primary clients are the 21 school districts of Macomb County. They are our most important customers—indeed, our reason for being.

Within these districts we focus our efforts on school staff. We work to increase their skills and capabilities so their students can experience more effective educational programs.

We also serve the individuals with disabilities. In fact, we are committed to working directly with youngsters with disabling conditions who reside in Macomb County's school districts.

And we are involved with the educational community across the country. Many of our staff members are leaders in state and national programs. Many are working with colleges and universities. Still others are exchanging information with their professional colleagues. All these activities have a single purpose: to identify and develop techniques and programs which improve learning opportunities in Macomb County.



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