

# **LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**



**EASTBROOK COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**

**SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

## **A GUIDE TO TRANSITION PLANNING**

***PREPARING TODAY FOR YOUR  
LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL***

## What is transition planning?

Transition planning determines the path you choose from high school to adulthood. Determining a lifestyle for yourself requires you to make many decisions about the following:

- The things you want to do when you complete high school.
- The steps you must take to successfully move from high school to adulthood.

## Ask yourself these questions:

The future is up to YOU!

You will need to gather information and make some critical choices.

- Where would I like to work?
- Will I need to get more education?
- Where will I live?
- What will I do for fun?
- How will I get where I want to go?
- Who can help me with work...school...housing...transportation?

Beginning at age 14, or during 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you will help develop your Individual Transition Plan (ITP) at your Annual Case Review (ACR). Your ITP is a plan that maps out the way you can reach your goals for life after high school. It will help you determine what support or training you need to live, work, and have fun. YOU are the most valuable person on the “team” that develops your ITP. Other members of the team can be:

- Your family and friends
- Your teachers
- Your school counselor
- Representatives from community agencies

### What can you do?

It is YOUR life! It would be best if you took some actions now that will help you reach your goals later. You can have more control if you:

- Attend your Annual Case Review (ACR) and speak up!
- Think about what you want to say at your ACR.
- Share your goals and dreams for the future.
- Consider other viewpoints and make your own decisions.

### What can Parents do?

- Attend the case conferences
- Participate in developing the IEP/ITP (Individual Education Program/Indiana Transition Plan)
- Sign the *Transfer of Information Form for Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR)*, if appropriate, and follow through with the application process for VR. • Determine whether or not there is a need to retain guardianship and follow through with the necessary legal process for retaining guardianship, if appropriate.
- Contact the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities for information about housing options and the waiting list, if appropriate.

### What are adult services?

Adult services are available through many different agencies in our community. Often, people do not pay directly for these services because they are funded by various government programs, such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid waivers...etc. Adult service providers can:

- Help you understand what types of services they provide.
- Explain what makes a person eligible for their services and who pays for the services.
- Take your application for services.
- Give you ideas to help you reach your goals.
- Assist you in finding the support you need.
- Help you understand what to expect after high school.

### Who should you contact first?

Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VRS) is a federal and state-funded agency that helps adults with disabilities receive the necessary services to get and keep jobs. A VRS counselor will be invited to attend your ACR during your senior year or will set up a time to meet with you/ your family outside a conference when the student/parent signs a release of information form from the school. At this time, you and your parent(s) will have the opportunity to ask questions. If you qualify, you will be assigned a VRS counselor who will provide you with the services you want and need to support your goals. VRS may help you with educational expenses or other services you may need to work!

### How do I get a job?

There are a few things to keep in mind as you begin to look for a job:

- Obtain the necessary documents. You will need a social security card, birth certificate, and a state identification card or driver's license. A driver's license or photo ID is available from the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (license branch)
- Carry basic information in your wallet so it will be available as you complete job applications. Along with your social security card, you will need the names, addresses, and phone numbers of three people who will give you good recommendations. Names and addresses of schools and previous employers may also be required.
- If you are 14-17 years old, you must have a work permit. Work permits are available in the counselor's office. Once hired, you must have your employer complete the Intent to Employ card and then take it to your school's counseling office along with your birth certificate.
- **You can always check for job leads at WorkOne.**

**WorkOne Marion (Grant County)**

**850 North Miller Ave**

**P.O. Box 5005**

**Marion, IN 46952**

**Phone: (765)668-8911 Ext:**

**[grant@workonene.org](mailto:grant@workonene.org)**

### *What opportunities are available in my high school?*

Career exploration is an essential part of your high school education. Tech-Prep, Vocational Education, or Employment for School Credit programs may be good options to consider in gaining training and opportunities to explore careers. Naval Jr ROTC is offered to students interested in the military.

*Talk to your Teacher of Record or Counselor for more information about these programs.*

### *Social Security Options*

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several federal programs that assist people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, the Social Security Administration administers both, and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program. Social Security Disability Insurance benefits you and certain family members if you are "insured," meaning you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes. Supplemental Security Income pays benefits based on financial need.

For information or to apply for either program, contact the local Social Security Branch.

**Social Security Administration  
844 North Miller Avenue, Marion, Indiana 46952  
1-888-397-9795**

### *Where am I going to live?*

You may dream of living on your own someday, living with a roommate or two, or continuing to live with your family. In any case, you may need assistance with your care or daily living needs. There are several ways to obtain these services, but all the avenues involve an application process and waiting lists.

It is important to make contacts and submit applications as early as possible.

There is no need to wait until the end of high school.

*There are two significant agencies to contact to obtain information and apply for living services:*

**The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities: 765-288-6516 or 877-218-3531**

### *Group Homes*

Group homes are homes where six to eight people live together and have staff present to help them, often 24 hours a day. The Bureau of Developmental Disabilities and Medicaid usually funds group homes. The funding is provided to the residential service agency that owns or rents the house. If a resident moves out of the house, the funding stays with the agency to provide service for another individual in that house. The waiting lists can be extended.

**Contact the BDDS office in Muncie at 765-288-6516 for further information.**

### *Medicaid Waivers*

Four Medicaid waivers make Medicaid funds available for in-home and community services. Each waiver has its own eligibility criteria and application procedures. A Medicaid waiver provides a person funding for purchasing services needed for personal support. This funding does not pay for rent, food, utilities, etc. It pays for the support services required by a person. The person can live in their family home or move out of it into their apartment or house. One advantage of this type of waiver is the opportunity for individuals to choose their providers as long as the state approves the provider. You may change providers if you wish. The funding follows you wherever you live within Indiana, as long as it is not in an institution, hospital, or group home. There is no age requirement to apply for services.

**Contact the BDDS office in Muncie at 765-288-6516 for further information.**

### What can I do with my free time?

School activities are great and can take up much of your time, but what will you do when you aren't in school? What are your interests? What are your talents? How and where can you do the things you like to do?

basketball\*fishing\*tennis\*theater\*golfing\*bowling\*swimming\*music  
camping\*drama\*crafts\*painting\*biking\*exercising\*volunteering

Whatever you enjoy doing, you can find opportunities to get involved in recreational interests. Contact some of the places listed below to learn how to get involved.

**City of Marion Parks & Recreation ..... (765) 382-3761**

**YMCA..... (765) 664-0544**

**Marion Public Library..... (765) 668-2900**

### **BE A VOLUNTEER!**

Many organizations would love to have you work with them a few hours each week. You can find out about the types of volunteer opportunities that match your interests by:

- Visiting the website: **Servegrantcounty.org**
- Contacting a local church
- Checking the newspaper

### How will I get around?

Getting around is easy if you have a driver's license and a car. If you don't, how will you get to work or the other places you need or want to go? Sometimes, it is tough to find the proper transportation at the time you need it. Your transition plan may include transportation considerations. Will you want to take a driver's education class? Will you need help with learning to ride the Marion City bus?

**City of Marion Transportation.....(765)  
668-4445 Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch**

*What classes should I take in high school?*

At the Annual Case Review, before you begin high school, you and the conference members will develop your Individual Transition Plan (ITP). You will decide whether working towards earning a diploma or a certificate is best for you.

- If you have an IEP that recommends a certificate of completion, you will be involved in a functional curriculum with community-based programs.

- If you plan to earn a high school diploma, you must take and pass the required state courses and state testing. Credit requirements for your graduating class will be discussed at each ACR. There may be some accommodations written into your IEP for classroom work and testing requirements based on your individual needs

*Are you thinking about college?*

Discuss your plans with your school counselor and Teacher of Record if you are considering college. You may need to take certain classes in high school to help you get into the college of your choice. You will also need to take the SAT and/or ACT exams. Students usually register for these college entrance examinations during their junior and senior years of high school. Many colleges and universities will require you to submit results from one of these tests along with your application. Make plans to attend college fairs to collect information about colleges and universities. College visits are an essential part of the selection process.

***Timing is everything! Be aware of timelines and meet all college and financial aid application deadlines.***

*Are you interested in other educational options after high school?*

After completing high school, there are many opportunities for continued training and education. Check with your school counselor for information about trade schools, technical programs, apprenticeship programs, and other options. A visit to Ivy Tech could be an excellent place to start your search for the suitable educational facility.



### *Do I need health insurance?*

**YES YOU DO!!!** Your family's health insurance may no longer cover you as you age. Health insurance helps pay for your medical services, both routine and emergency. Medical services are costly! It would be best to have health insurance to help you pay for any required health services.

Whether looking for work or planning to further your education beyond high school, you must be sure you have health insurance. If you cannot get health insurance at work, school, or alone, you may wish to check with the Grant County Division of Family Resources about Medicaid or Medicare.

**Grant County Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services**

**(800) 403-0864**

### *What about selective service registration?*

Federal law requires all males, regardless of disability, to sign up with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. You can sign up at any post office. If you do not declare yourself a "conscientious objector" or do not sign up with the Selective Service, you may be arrested and lose your disability benefits.

### *How can I get an ID card?*

You can get a photo identification card at your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles branch (BMV) if you do not have a driver's license.

**BMV (888) 692-6841**

### *Do I need a guardian?*

Before you are 18 years old, your parents are your legal guardians. A guardian is someone who makes important decisions for you. These are decisions about your money, your health, or where you live. When you turn 18, the state of Indiana says you are your guardian. This means you have reached the “age of majority”; you are an adult.

- Do you feel you can be your guardian?
- Do you need someone else to help or make decisions for you?

If you feel you cannot be your guardian, you or a family member can ask a judge to appoint someone to be your guardian—the guardian may be your parents, a relative, or someone else approved by the court. In most cases, you will need an attorney to help you do this. If you don’t want a guardian to manage all of your business, it is possible to have a limited guardianship. This will allow you to have the freedom of decision making in some areas of your life, while limiting the guardian to those areas where help is required, such as medical and health issues. If you live in a group home or a supported living situation, the people who support you may assist you in making some decisions. However, carefully considering the guardianship issue for your safety and well-being is still a good idea. Talk this over with your parents. Other alternatives to guardianship are less expensive and do not involve attorneys. For more information and assistance, contact:

**The ARC of Indiana**  
**(800) 382-9100**

### *How can I help myself?*

Advocacy is about helping yourself receive the services that you need. If you feel that you are not being treated fairly or are unsure how to work through the service systems' red tape, some agencies are prepared to help you. They can:

- Give you the information you need.
- Refer you to people who can help you.

- Possibly accompany you to meetings or otherwise represent you.

For more information and assistance, you may contact:

**Indiana Protection and Advocacy Services.....(800) 622-4845**

**IN\*SOURCE**

.....(800) 332-4433

### **SERVICE DIRECTORY**

#### **Eastbrook Special Services**

560 S 900 E  
Marion, IN 46953  
(765) 664-1214

#### **Carey Services**

2724 S. Carey Street  
Marion, IN 46953  
(765) 668-8961

#### **Radiant Health**

505 N. Wabash Ave  
Marion, IN 46952  
(765) 662-3971

#### **Division of Family Resources**

830 N. Miller Ave  
Marion, IN 46952  
(800) 403-0864

#### **Family Service Society, Inc.**

101 S Washington St  
Marion, IN 46952  
(765) 662-9971

#### **Bureau of Disabilities Services**

201 E Charles Street #130  
Muncie IN 47305  
(765) 288-6516

#### **Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Office**

840 North Miller Avenue  
Marion, IN 46952  
(765) 662-9961

#### **In-Home Care Mgmt & Options**

#### **Provided by: Lifestream Services Inc.**

1923 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Marion, IN 46953  
(765) 759-1121

#### **Social Security Administration**

844 North Miller Avenue  
Marion, IN 46952  
(800) 772-1213

Visit <https://instrc.indiana.edu/> to find the community resources you need – when you need them! The Indiana Secondary Transition Resource Center has an interactive online map filled with information about local and state service providers, advocacy organizations, government offices, and more! Check it out!