
























# Benchmarks for Middle School Transition Planning

Families may help their youth with transition by becoming aware of predictors and benchmarks that support movement from middle school to high school and beyond. With awareness, families can seek and provide opportunities to participate in these activities. See the predictors of post-school outcomes legend below, for a list of the predictors, their icons and descriptions. *The Middle School Transition Trail Map*, a guide to help families navigate the transition to and from middle school is a companion resource you may find helpful. It is available at <http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=77#NS138>. For additional information, please connect with your district’s exceptional student education (ESE) representative. (This resource was adapted from the Oklahoma Transition Council resource, *Timeline for Transition Activities* - <http://www.ou.edu/content/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/timeline-of-transition-activities.html>.)




<b>Legend – Predictors of Post-School Outcomes</b> (Note: the numbers are correlated with the benchmarks by the icon; the numbers do not reflect level of importance)	
	1. <b>Career Awareness</b> is learning about opportunities, education and skills needed to choose a career that matches one’s strengths and interests.
	2. <b>Career and Technical Education (CTE)</b> , also referred to as “vocational education”, consists of courses that prepare students for a specific job or career.
	3. <b>Community Experiences</b> are activities that occur outside of the school, supported with in-class teaching, where students apply academic, social and/or general work behaviors and skills.
	4. <b>Exit Exam Requirements/High School Diploma</b> – Exit Exams are standardized state tests that measure skill levels in content areas, such as Algebra or English that students must pass in order to earn a high school diploma. Diploma status is achieved by completing the requirements of the state awarding the diploma, including the completion of courses needed to fulfill the student's selected graduation pathway, such as the 24-credit, 18-credit and merit or scholar designation.
	5. <b>Goal-Setting</b> – Students who take part in goal-setting are more likely to be found employed after high school. Students who want to attend a college or university are more likely to be engaged in postsecondary education.
	6. <b>Inclusion in General Education</b> requires students with disabilities to have access to general education curriculum and participate in general education classes with peers without disabilities.
	7. <b>Interagency Collaboration</b> is a clear, purposeful and carefully designed process that promotes collaboration across agencies and programs to support outcomes for youth.
	8. <b>Occupational Courses</b> are individual courses that support career awareness, allow students to explore different career pathways and develop job skills through experience and teaching focused on their selected employment goals.
	9. <b>Paid Employment/Work Experiences</b> – Work experiences are activities that place students in a genuine workplace and may include: work sampling, job shadowing, internships, apprenticeships and paid employment. Paid employment can include existing standard jobs in a company/organization or customized work assignments negotiated with the employer, but these activities always feature competitive pay (minimum wage or higher) paid directly to the student by the employer.




	10. <b>Parent Expectations</b> – There is a positive relationship between parents who hold high expectations for their students and positive post-school outcomes. Students with disabilities whose parents expect them to get a job, go to college and/or be able to support themselves are more likely to be found employed and accessing further education.
	11. <b>Course of Study (CoS)</b> is an individualized set of courses, experiences and curriculum designed to develop a student’s academic and functional achievement to support the fulfillment of desired post-school goals.
	12. <b>Parent Involvement</b> means parents/families/guardians are active participants in all aspects of transition planning, supporting and advocating for their student.
	13. <b>Psychological Empowerment</b> Psychological empowerment is a component of self-determination that represents the belief there is a meaningful connection between one's behavior and the resulting outcomes.
	14. <b>Self-care/Independent Living Skills</b> are skills needed to manage one’s daily personal needs. Self-care and independent living skills include being able to care for your own health needs, interacting with others, managing money and other financial matters, such as paying bills, and being able to live independently.
	15. <b>Social Skills</b> are behaviors and attitudes that help support the development of positive relationships with others through communication and cooperation. Social skills include problem solving when engaged in a social interaction, body language, speaking, listening and responding to verbal, written or other forms of communication.
	16. <b>Self-realization</b> is related to the self-determination component, self-awareness/self-knowledge, and specifically refers to the understanding of one's strengths and support needs.
	17. <b>Self-Determination/Self-Advocacy</b> is the ability to make choices, solve problems, set goals, evaluate options, take initiative to reach one’s goals and accept the consequences of one's actions.
	18. <b>Student Support</b> is the network of people, such as family, friends, teachers and adult service providers, who provide services and resources in multiple settings to help students to transition from student life to adult life. This network of people who provide student support should keep in mind the student’s postsecondary goals and be aware of the student’s strengths, preferences, interests and needs.
	19. A <b>Transition Program</b> prepares students to move from high school to adult-life using transition planning and education to create a plan to help students achieve their post-school goals in education/training, employment and independent living as needed.
	20. <b>Travel Skills</b> – Students with disabilities who were able to travel independently outside the home, such as to school, a local store or a neighbor’s house, are more likely to be involved in post-school employment.
	21. <b>Work Study</b> programs provide students the opportunity to learn through experiences that are designed to develop students’ skills, attitudes and behaviors related to work. Work-study programs provide both academic and vocational education.
	22. <b>Vocational Education</b> consists of courses that prepare students for a specific job or career.
	23. <b>Youth Autonomy</b> – Students who show more independence and decision-making skills, such as planning weekend activities, volunteering, making decisions and making long-range plans independently, are more likely to be found in post-school education.

**Directions for using this document:** In the left column of the Benchmarks table, you will find the following:

- Benchmarks for middle school students and their families to work toward achieving.
- Icons that indicate how the benchmark activities are related to predictors of post-school outcomes.
- Discussion-starters for students and families.

The right column provides resources that can support students and families as they work toward meeting the benchmarks. Please note, many resources may be appropriate for more than one area.

Benchmarks for Middle School Transition Planning	
Personal Social Development	
Middle School Transition Benchmarks and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families	Resources
<p>1. Students increase their self-awareness, including learning more about their disability(ies), strengths, preferences (likes/dislikes, including recreation and leisure activities) and needs.</p>  <p>Ask: <i>Do you know/understand your strengths, interests, disability and needs? Does knowing yourself help you to make good decisions and help others to know you better?</i></p>	<p>Toolbox for Self-Determination  <a href="https://www.imdetermined.org/resource/toolbox-for-self-determination/">https://www.imdetermined.org/resource/toolbox-for-self-determination/</a></p> <p>Project 10 web page on Self-Advocacy and Self-Determination  <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=185">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=185</a></p> <p>Project 10 web page regarding Career Interests and Assessments  <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=118">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=118</a></p> <p>Project 10 web page on Disclosing a Disability/Requesting Accommodations  <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=124">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=124</a> (includes the 4-1-1 on Disability Disclosure)</p>
<p>2. Students learn how to communicate effectively about their strengths, challenges, preferences and vision for the future. Also, become aware of self-disclosure and leadership opportunities.</p>  <p>Ask: <i>How would you describe your disability to a teacher and explain what you need to do your best in the classroom?</i></p>	<p>Leading IEPs Champions  <a href="https://globalgenes.org/raredaily/life-lowe-mommy-happens-high-school/">https://globalgenes.org/raredaily/life-lowe-mommy-happens-high-school/</a></p> <p>Students Determined to Take Control of Their Education and Their Lives  <a href="https://www.imdetermined.org/about/history/module-four-students-determined-take-control-education-and-lives/">https://www.imdetermined.org/about/history/module-four-students-determined-take-control-education-and-lives/</a></p>
<p>3. Students provide input regarding their present level of performance on the IEP.</p> 	<p>Secondary - It's All About You! Get to Know Your IEP  <a href="https://www.imdetermined.org/resource/secondary-its-all-about-you-get-to-know-your-iep-oc/">https://www.imdetermined.org/resource/secondary-its-all-about-you-get-to-know-your-iep-oc/</a></p>

<p>Ask: <i>In reviewing your IEP goals, what has been accomplished? Have you discovered new skills? What do you still need to work on and what kind of support will help you succeed?</i></p>	
<p>4. Students learn how to meaningfully lead and/or participate in their IEP meetings to the greatest extent possible.</p> <p></p> <p>Ask: <i>How do you currently participate in your IEP meeting? Are there ways you could participate more actively? Remember, your IEP is about you and preparing for your future!</i></p>	
<p>5. Students learn about the relationship between their actions and the outcomes. E.g. when you make a schedule to complete your weekly tasks and follow it, your tasks get completed.</p> <p></p> <p>Ask: <i>If you aren't satisfied with the outcome of something, how could your actions positively impact change?</i></p>	
<b>Academic Planning</b>	
<b>Middle School Transition Benchmarks and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<p>6. Students, their families and other members of the IEP team set goals and begin to identify transition service needs (this will be based on the results from transition assessments). Include instructional program and self-determination.</p> <p></p> <p>Ask: <i>How will your IEP goals in middle school help prepare you to transition to high school and adult life in the future?</i></p>	<p>Connections: A Transition Curriculum for Grades 3 - 6 <a href="https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED440481">https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED440481</a></p> <p>Self-Determination for Parents <a href="https://www.imdetermined.org/families/">https://www.imdetermined.org/families/</a></p> <p>Supporting Collaborations with Families to Ensure Effective Transitions <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322#NS142">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322#NS142</a></p>
<p>7. Families learn about secondary transition, understand how to actively and effectively participate in the process and support their students in becoming stronger self-advocates. Per</p>	<p><i>Family Guide to Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities</i> <a href="http://project10.info/Documents/FamilyGuide_Revised_FINAL_6.13.18.pdf">http://project10.info/Documents/FamilyGuide_Revised_FINAL_6.13.18.pdf</a></p>

s.1003.5716 F.S. schools will provide information regarding district and state programs and services.



Ask: *How do you currently participate in the transition planning process? Remember that you and your student have valuable information to share with the IEP team to determine goals and supports needed; and it is okay to ask questions!*

8. Students learn about available accommodations which could help support them to be successful; and how to request them.



Ask: *How is the student currently receiving any accommodations? Discuss any questions with the IEP team. (See chapter four of "Accommodations: Assisting Students with Disabilities")*  
<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7690/urlt/0070069-accomm-educator.pdf>

9. Students take an active role in monitoring progress on their IEP goals to increase the likelihood of goal progress and achievement.



Ask: *Do you set aside time to regularly review IEP goal progress? (IEP meetings take place at least annually--schools will collect data to measure annual goal progress but students can also take an active role.)*

10. Students and families participate in activities to increase access to, and skills related to technology. Please note postsecondary institutions rely on technology for communication and classwork. It is also very important to understand social media platforms and how to be a responsible online citizen.



The Family Guide to Secondary Transition Planning for Students with Disabilities Comprehensive Toolkit (Appendices; Appendix L, *Questions to Consider When Planning Transition Services*) <https://padlet.com/aschoenb/cbxve4zdy1e4>

Secondary Transition Roadmap for Families  
English - [http://project10.info/Documents/Roadmap\\_with\\_HB173\\_Edits\\_FINAL\\_3.10.22.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/Roadmap_with_HB173_Edits_FINAL_3.10.22.pdf)

Spanish - [http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary\\_Transition\\_Roadmap\\_FINAL\\_3.10.22\\_Spanish.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary_Transition_Roadmap_FINAL_3.10.22_Spanish.pdf)

Haitian Creole - [http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary\\_Transition\\_Roadmap\\_FINAL\\_3.10.22\\_1-Haitian\\_Creole.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary_Transition_Roadmap_FINAL_3.10.22_1-Haitian_Creole.pdf)

Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resources System (FDLRS) Parent Services  
<https://www.fdlrs.org/parent-services>

FDLRS Technology- <https://www.fdlrs.org/technology>

Family Network on Disabilities (Parent Training and Information Center)  
<https://fndusa.org/>


Parent to Parent of Miami (serving Miami-Dade and Monroe)  
<https://www.ptopmiami.org/>

Empowerment Parent Resource Center of Northwest Florida (serving Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties)  
<https://www.eprcnwfl.com/who-we-are/>


Staying Safe on Social Media and Online-  
<https://www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/learning-disabilities/publications/staying-safe-social-media-and-online>





Standing Up for Me (self-determination curriculum available through Project 10)- <http://project10.info/SUFM.PHP>


Student-Directed IEPs - <http://blog.brookespublishing.com/9-first-steps-to-student-directed-ieps/>

<p>Ask: <i>Have necessary technology skills been identified? What are some ways you can work on them together at home?</i></p>	<p>Self-Directed IEP (instructional tools)- <a href="http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/choicemaker-curriculum/self-directed-iep">http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/choicemaker-curriculum/self-directed-iep</a></p> <p>Students Transitioning to Adult Roles (STAR) Person-Centered Planning (PCP) <a href="http://project10.info/Star.php">http://project10.info/Star.php</a></p>
<p>11. Students, families and school staff discuss high school graduation options to ensure that students’ middle school course of study helps prepare them for the graduation option they want to pursue.</p>  <p>Ask: <i>Have you explored future career interests (additional activities are in the Career Pathway and Postsecondary Education sections below), and determined which graduation options prepare students for the career they desire? Academic Advisement Flyer:</i></p> <p><a href="http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf">http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf</a></p> <p>Secondary Transition Roadmap for Families (pages 4-7): <a href="http://project10.info/Documents/Roadmap_with_HB173_Edits_FINAL_3.10.22.pdf">http://project10.info/Documents/Roadmap_with_HB173_Edits_FINAL_3.10.22.pdf</a></p>	<p>Supporting Content Learning Through Technology for K-12 Students With Disabilities - <a href="https://cedar.education.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/IC-10_FINAL_09-10-14.pdf">https://cedar.education.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/IC-10_FINAL_09-10-14.pdf</a></p> <p>Standard Diploma Requirements: Academic Advisement—What Parents and Students Need to Know <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf">http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7764/urlt/StandardDiplomaRequirements.pdf</a></p> <p>Family Involvement - Project 10 <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322#NS142">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=322#NS142</a></p>



**Community Involvement/Independent Living**

<b>Middle School Transition Benchmarks and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families</b>	<b>Resources</b>
<p>12. By age 14 the LEA will invite a representative of any agency currently providing or likely to provide and/or pay for transition services to the student, such as the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR/VR), Division of Blind Services (DBS), Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD), etc., to attend the IEP meeting.</p>  <p>Ask: <i>Is there an agency(ies) you would like to be invited to the IEP meeting?</i></p>	<p>Let’s Go! A Guide to Getting Around Your Community in Florida <a href="https://fddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/transportation-guidebook.pdf">https://fddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/transportation-guidebook.pdf</a>.</p> <p>A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities (OSERS, USDOE) - See page nine for consent <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>CareerSource Florida - <a href="http://careersourceflorida.com/">http://careersourceflorida.com/</a></p>

<p>NOTE: Consent of the parent(s), or consent of a student who has reached the age of majority and rights have transferred, is required prior to inviting a representative of any participating agency likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services to attend a student's IEP team meeting. Consent is also required prior to releasing personally identifiable information to officials of participating agencies.</p>	
<p>13. Schools will provide information regarding the local Center for Independent Living (CIL) by age 12/during the student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Students, with assistance if needed, should contact their local Center for Independent Living to inquire about supports and services to increase independence (e.g., medical equipment, assistive technology, transportation and other needs).</p>  <p><i>Ask: Are you familiar with your local Center for Independent Living? If not, research their website, call the office and/or schedule a time to visit.</i></p>	<p>Adults with Disabilities Workforce Education Program  <a href="http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/adults-edu/">http://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/other-school-choice-options/adults-edu/</a></p> <p>Florida Afterschool Alliance - <a href="http://www.floridaafterschool.org/">http://www.floridaafterschool.org/</a></p> <p>Florida Afterschool Network - <a href="http://www.myfan.org/">http://www.myfan.org/</a></p> <p>Florida Centers for Independent Living - <a href="http://www.floridacils.org/index.html">http://www.floridacils.org/index.html</a>  Find the CIL that is closest to you - <a href="http://www.floridacils.org/find-your-cil">http://www.floridacils.org/find-your-cil</a></p> <p>Florida Commission for the Transportation Disadvantaged  <a href="https://ctd.fdot.gov/">https://ctd.fdot.gov/</a></p>
<p>14. Students develop and practice money skills.</p>  <p><i>Ask: What can be done to increase the student's confidence and competence with handling and managing money?</i></p>	<p>Connections Guide: Tools and Resources For Adult Life- <a href="https://fddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Connections-Tools-and-Resources-for-Adult-Life-2021.pdf">https://fddc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Connections-Tools-and-Resources-for-Adult-Life-2021.pdf</a></p>
<p>15. Support the development of travel skills to enhance independence.</p>  <p><i>Ask: Are there new travel skills that can be learned and used? (Review the student's experience with travel skills.)</i></p>	<p>Project 10 Transportation Webpage - <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=270">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=270</a></p> <p>The Friendship Circle - 10 Benefits of Chores at Home  <a href="https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/10/24/the-ten-benefits-of-chores-for-your-child-with-special-needs/">https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/10/24/the-ten-benefits-of-chores-for-your-child-with-special-needs/</a></p> <p>The Friendship Circle - 12 Skills and 5 Household Chores that Can Serve as Preparation for Future Vocation  <a href="https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2016/02/10/12-skills-and-5-household-chores-that-can-serve-as-preparation-for-future-vocation/">https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2016/02/10/12-skills-and-5-household-chores-that-can-serve-as-preparation-for-future-vocation/</a></p>
<p>16. Students, their families and other IEP team members explore after school and summer advancement opportunities, such as: outreach programs from colleges and universities, social skill programs, and other clubs and extra-curricular activities.</p> 	<p>Project 10 Financial Literacy Webpage  <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=307">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=307</a></p>

<p>Ask: <i>What type of summer program(s) are available? Which would be most beneficial for the student?</i></p>	<p>The Friendship Circle - How To Teach Chores To Your Special Needs Child  <a href="https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/03/07/how-to-teach-chores-to-your-special-needs-child/">https://www.friendshipcircle.org/blog/2012/03/07/how-to-teach-chores-to-your-special-needs-child/</a></p>
<p>17. Students develop independent living skills through performing household tasks at home, such as laundry, setting the table, sweeping, grocery shopping, cooking and more.</p> <p></p> <p>Ask: <i>Are there new tasks/skills to learn and practice? (Review the tasks the student performs at home.)</i></p>	<p>The Autism Community in Action - Developing Lifeskills: Chores  <a href="https://tacanow.org/family-resources/developing-lifeskills-chores/">https://tacanow.org/family-resources/developing-lifeskills-chores/</a></p> <p>Accessible Chef - Includes visual recipes and adaptive cooking tools  <a href="https://accessiblechef.com/">https://accessiblechef.com/</a></p> <p>All I Ever Needed to Know, I Learned at the Grocery Store  <a href="https://pathways.org/ever-needed-know-learned-grocery-store/">https://pathways.org/ever-needed-know-learned-grocery-store/</a></p> <p>Grocery Store as Classroom  <a href="http://themint.org/parents/grocery-store-as-classroom.html">http://themint.org/parents/grocery-store-as-classroom.html</a></p>

**Career Pathway**

Middle School Transition Benchmarks and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families	Resources
<p>18. Students learn about famous people with disabilities (via reading/listening to biographies, watching videos, interviews, etc.) and how they achieved their goals.</p> <p></p> <p>Ask: <i>How are these individuals inspiring? How did they achieve their goals? (Find role models with disabilities in areas of the student's interests.)</i></p>	<p>Career Interests and Assessments – Project 10-  <a href="http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=118">http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=118</a></p> <p>Kuder - Parents: Here's what you can do to help your child plan for a career  <a href="https://www.kuder.com/blog/college-career-readiness/parents-heres-what-you-can-do-to-help-your-child-plan-for-a-career/">https://www.kuder.com/blog/college-career-readiness/parents-heres-what-you-can-do-to-help-your-child-plan-for-a-career/</a></p> <p>Barnes and Noble: Differently Abled Persons Biographies (not a free resource)  <a href="https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/books/peoples-cultures-biography/disabled-differently-abled-persons-biography/_/N-29Z8q8Zsxo">https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/books/peoples-cultures-biography/disabled-differently-abled-persons-biography/_/N-29Z8q8Zsxo</a></p>
<p>19. Students learn more about career options and complete Career Interest Inventories. Please note, students must take a Career and Education Planning course in middle school which results in an academic and career plan [1003.4156 (1)(e), F.S.].</p> <p></p>	




Ask: *What are your career interests? Do you know the education/training requirements and job opportunities available in these career fields?*

Workforce Innovation Technical Assistance Center (WINTAC), Pre-Employment Transition Services - <http://www.wintac.org/topic-areas/pre-employment-transition-services>

20. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) are available to eligible students with disabilities ages 14-21. The following are the five Pre-ETS areas:

1. Job Exploration Counseling
2. Work Readiness Training
3. Work-Based Learning Experiences (WBLEs)
4. Self-Advocacy Training & Peer Mentoring
5. Postsecondary Educational Counseling

VR Pre-ETS flyer: [http://rehabworks.org/\\_resources/docs/flyers/pre-employment-transition-services.pdf](http://rehabworks.org/_resources/docs/flyers/pre-employment-transition-services.pdf)



Transition Youth Services at VR - <https://rehabworks.org/student-youth/student-steps.html>


Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS through VR) <https://rehabworks.org/student-youth/youth-transition.html>

Florida Abilities Work Portal <https://abilitieswork.employflorida.com/vosnet/Default.aspx>

Age-Appropriate Transition Assessment Toolkit (must create a free account to access)- <https://transitionta.org/transition-assessment/>

Connections: A Transition Curriculum for School 3 - 6 <https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED440481>

21. Students participate in work-based learning experiences (WBLE); this may include school-based enterprises, service learning and volunteer opportunities in the community, including the school.




FloridaShines/MyCareerShines <https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career/plan-your-future>

Florida Workforce Development Board Resources <http://www.floridajobs.org/workforce-board-resources>

Check with your local school district and Workforce Investment Board Youth Council for upcoming events.

22. Students and their families participate in resource fairs that include information related to college and careers with follow-up conversations occurring, particularly if students attend alone and/or without parent(s).



Ask: *Which options appear to be aligned with the student's areas of interest? (Review the materials gathered at the resource fair.)*

23. Students and their families explore high school options, such as magnet programs and career academies based on students' interests and desired career pathway. Please note, schools will provide information regarding these opportunities in high school by age 12/during the student's 7<sup>th</sup> grade year. Ensure that CTE programs and opportunities to earn industry certifications while still attending school is explored (e.g. Certified Nursing Assistant, Welding, Food Handlers Certification, etc.).



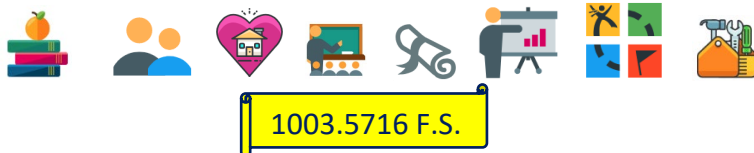
Ask: *What are the various high school options available in your district? Which is/are best suited to the student?*

### Postsecondary Education

#### Middle School Transition Benchmarks and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families

#### Resources

24. Students, families and other IEP team members plan for postsecondary education; this includes looking into high school programs and their requirements (schools will provide information by age 12/7<sup>th</sup> grade). Please note, the student's postsecondary goals must be developed by age 14 or before entering high school.



Ask: *Considering the student's career interests, is the student taking courses that will prepare him/her for the postsecondary education required to find employment in that field?*

Planning for Postsecondary- Project 10  
<http://project10.info/PostsecondaryEducation.php>

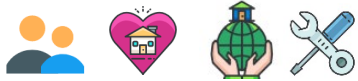
Inclusive Postsecondary Education – Project 10  
<http://project10.info/DPage.php?!D=193>

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities - <http://fcsua.org/>

Florida Career and Technical Centers/Career and Technical Colleges  
<http://www.fldoe.org/academics/career-adult-edu/dist-ps-instit.stml>

The Florida College System, Disability Support Services:  
<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/higher-ed/fl-college-system/academic-student-affairs/disability-support-services.stml>

25. Families assist students in researching colleges, universities and career and technical education programs. Plan visits whenever possible and support school-sponsored fieldtrips.



Ask: *What are the student's needs for a successful postsecondary education experience and how will these needs be met? Review the guiding questions in "Getting Ready for Educational Opportunities After High School: Families Supporting Students for Success".*

[http://project10.info/Documents/Final\\_PSE\\_Product\\_for\\_Posting\\_5.29.20.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/Final_PSE_Product_for_Posting_5.29.20.pdf)

Think College - <https://thinkcollege.net/>

A Transition Activity Calendar for Students who are Blind or Visually Impaired  
<http://www.ntac.blind.msstate.edu/providers/tac/#3>

Getting Ready for Educational Opportunities After High School: Families Supporting Students for Success  
[http://project10.info/Documents/Final\\_PSE\\_Product\\_for\\_Posting\\_5.29.20.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/Final_PSE_Product_for_Posting_5.29.20.pdf)

Career and Technical Education: Enhancing Educational Experiences in Middle School, High School and Postsecondary Education  
[http://project10.info/Documents/CTE\\_SSTIC\\_Product\\_with\\_CTE\\_Option\\_4.17.2020.pdf](http://project10.info/Documents/CTE_SSTIC_Product_with_CTE_Option_4.17.2020.pdf)

26. Families of students with intellectual disabilities assist with exploring inclusive postsecondary education programs (IPSEs) designed to accommodate student needs and provide further instruction and training to prepare students for a career.



Ask: *Are you aware of the growing opportunities for students with intellectual disabilities to attend college? Check out the Project 10 web page on "Inclusive Postsecondary Education" to learn more.*

<http://project10.info/DPage.php?ID=193>

State University System, Students with Disabilities  
<https://www.flbog.edu/universities/admissions-transfers/students-with-disabilities/>



MyCareerShines  
<https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career/plan-your-future>

27. Families explore financial planning for postsecondary education.



Ask: *What types of financial aid, grants and scholarships are available? Keep in mind that MyCareerShines has very helpful financial planning resources, including access to over 270 scholarship applications!*

## Looking Ahead

Transition Activity and Discussion-Starters for Students and Families	Resources
<p>28. Discussion regarding deferring receipt of a standard diploma must begin by age 14/before high school. Families become familiar with requirements to defer receipt of a standard diploma and extended transition programs.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;">  </div> <p><i>Ask: What are the possible benefits of deferring receipt of a standard diploma? Remember, the IEP team decides whether or not the student would be eligible to defer.</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> The legislation that allows all students the opportunity to work toward a standard diploma also allows certain students with disabilities to defer receiving the diploma and continue to receive educational services from the school district. Deferral is necessary because students who receive a standard high school diploma are no longer eligible for a free appropriate public education (FAPE). Students who defer may participate in an extended transition program. Planning for deferral will take place with the student's IEP team well in advance of the student graduating. See the Secondary Transition Roadmap for Families (page 8): <a href="http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary_Transition_Roadmap_FINAL_1.19.21_1.pdf">http://project10.info/Documents/Secondary_Transition_Roadmap_FINAL_1.19.21_1.pdf</a></p>	<p>SSA Area Work Incentive Coordinators for North and South Florida <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/atlanta/southeast/awic/index.htm">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/atlanta/southeast/awic/index.htm</a></p> <p><i>The Red Book - A Guide to Work Incentives</i> <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook/">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/redbook/</a></p> <p>Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) and Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) <a href="http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/WIPA.html">http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/WIPA.html</a></p> <p>6A-1.09963 High School Graduation Requirements for Students with Disabilities <a href="https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-1.09963">https://www.flrules.org/gateway/ruleNo.asp?id=6A-1.09963</a></p> <p>1003.4282(10)(c), F.S. Requirements for a standard high school diploma <a href="http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.4282.html">http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&amp;URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.4282.html</a></p> <p>Extended Transition Programs List (Florida) <a href="https://project10.info/Documents/Extended_Transition_Florida_18-22_Programs_1.pdf">https://project10.info/Documents/Extended_Transition_Florida_18-22_Programs_1.pdf</a></p> <p><b>Resources by Location</b></p> <p>For each of the Florida school districts, Project 10 provides contact information for district personnel and brief descriptions of the transition-related resources available to students with disabilities. Resources fall within the following categories: Local School District, Employment, Local Agencies, Colleges and Universities, and Students and Families. Check out the available resources in your area - <a href="http://project10.info/ResourcesByLocation.php#NS82">http://project10.info/ResourcesByLocation.php#NS82</a></p>
<p>29. Students and their families connect with a Benefits Planner to talk about paid employment, which could include self-employment, and potential impact on Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;">  </div> <p><i>Ask: Are you aware of the Social Security employment supports and work incentives, such as the Student Earned Income Exclusion (SEIE)? There are Community Work Incentive Coordinators (CWICs) across the state who can help with benefits planning, and their services are free!</i></p>	<p>For each of the Florida school districts, Project 10 provides contact information for district personnel and brief descriptions of the transition-related resources available to students with disabilities. Resources fall within the following categories: Local School District, Employment, Local Agencies, Colleges and Universities, and Students and Families. Check out the available resources in your area - <a href="http://project10.info/ResourcesByLocation.php#NS82">http://project10.info/ResourcesByLocation.php#NS82</a></p>

