

Transition to Adult Life

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“What do you want to be when you grow up?”
It’s a question that every child has the right to dream about. The North Penn High School Transition Office exists to help students in cultivating a response to this question. In Pennsylvania, once a student with a disability turns 14 year old, the IEP team must discuss what the students’ goals are after high school, particularly related to post-secondary education, employment, and independent living.

The NPHS Transition Office provides services in job exploration, job training, and career/work study. With twelve job coaches to assist students at worksites and over 20 to 30 different community worksite partnerships, students experience on-site employability skill training. Placements at worksites are primarily based on students’ interests and include day care centers, retail, offices, retirement communities, restaurants, automotive centers, manufacturing, and greenhouses. While students are at work, they receive assistance from their job coaches in time management, responsibility, following unwritten social cues, competitive pace, accepting criticism, initiative, appearance, and communicating with coworkers and supervisors.

If the IEP team determines that further schooling beyond senior year is necessary, students with disabilities may also elect to continue their education until age 21. The post-12 program is geared towards students who have completed their senior year of high school and seek to further their academic and employability skills. While attending the Post 12 program at the high school, most students typically participate in the job training

program, and participate in several classes which may include Math Extensions, Reading Extensions, Independent Living and Occupational Seminar). Students focus on any and all skills needed to live independently in the future. Some curriculum topics include travel training lessons, planning and cooking healthy meals, visiting apartments to discuss leases, understanding mock paychecks, creating a monthly budget, filing out job applications, and participating in interviews in the community.

An important piece of the Transition puzzle is also ensuring that students and families are connected to government agencies that can help with the transition process after students take their diploma from North Penn School District. If appropriate, families at the high school are given information on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Social Security, and the Office of Developmental Disabilities.

The Transition process can be an overwhelming experience for anyone, but starting the discussion early on benefits everyone! Please visit the Transition Wikispace for more information or contact your special ed case manager with questions. <http://nptransition.wikispaces.com/>



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