

# TRANSITION BASICS



## What is Transition?

**34 CFR 300.43 (a) Transition services** means a coordinated set of activities for a child with a disability that—

(1) Is designed to be within a results-oriented process, that is focused on improving the academic and functional achievement of the child with a disability to facilitate the child's movement from school to post-school activities, including postsecondary education, vocational education, integrated employment (including supported 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; and includes

- (i) Instruction;
- (ii) Related services;
- (iii) Community experiences;
- (iv) The development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives; and
- (v) If appropriate, acquisition of daily living skills and provision of a functional vocational evaluation.

(b) Transition services for children with disabilities may be special education, if provided as specially designed instruction, or a related service, if required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education.



## Individual Transition Plan

When a student is approximately 16 years old, his/her IEP should also include an Individual Transition Plan (ITP). The plan should contain the following:

- Appropriate, measurable post-secondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment, and where appropriate, independent living skills, and
- The transition services (including course of study) needed to assist the child in reaching his/her educational goals

## ITP Participants



The most important participant is the **student!**

Other participants may include the following:

- Transition Specialist
- Case Manager/Program Specialist
- Psychologist
- Service Coordinator if Regional Center client
- Parents
- Teacher
- Related services providers
- Department of Rehabilitation
- Anyone else that the student would like to invite

**REMEMBER: The Transition Plan is part of the IEP and it will be discussed at that meeting.**

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## Certificate vs. Diploma

### Certificate of Completion:

Some students that have an IEP will graduate with a Certificate of Completion. The local educational agency may award an individual with exceptional needs a certificate or document of educational achievement or completion if the requirements of subdivision (a), (b), or (c) are met.

(a) The individual has satisfactorily completed a prescribed alternative course of study approved by the governing board of the school district in which the individual attended school or the school district with jurisdiction over the individual and identified in his or her individualized education program.

(b) The individual has satisfactorily met his or her individualized education program goals and objectives during high school as determined by the individualized education program team.

(c) The individual has satisfactorily attended high school, participated in the instruction as prescribed in his or her individualized education program, and has met the objectives of the statement of transition services.

California Education Code 56390-56392

### High School Diploma

California Education Code Section 56026.1 (b) For purposes of this section and Section 56026, a "regular high school diploma" means a diploma conferred on a pupil who has met all local and state high school graduation requirements.

Note: *Special Education services will terminate if the student graduates with a high school diploma. Graduation with a certificate provides your child with special education services until the academic year in which he/she reaches the age of 22.*



## Age of Majority

Is the legal age established under state law at which an individual is no longer a minor and, as a young adult, has the right and responsibility to make certain legal choices that adults make.

At the age of majority all of the educational rights provided to the parents transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of majority.



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## Resources:

Disability Rights California  
[www.disabilityrightsca.org](http://www.disabilityrightsca.org)  
800-776-5746

National Center of Secondary Education  
<http://www.nsttac.org/transition-map/california>

The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET)  
<http://www.ncset.org/about/default.html>

State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
[www.scdd.ca.gov](http://www.scdd.ca.gov)  
714-558-4404