

Introduction



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Transition: The Journey

An upcoming journey, trip, or vacation evokes feelings not unlike those feelings experienced by young adults in their last years of high school. These feelings may include excitement, anticipation and apprehension. Feelings will vary from one young person to the next and may vary within each individual on a daily basis.

The journey from public school to the adult environment is more than providing services around goals and objectives on an IEP or on a 504 Plan. The journey, or transition, should be built on the dreams, hopes, plans and goals of the student with a strong web of support from the community. As a community, we need to help our young people find their dream and identify which part of the dream they most treasure. We need to build supports to help them reach for their dream.

Academic skills are one of the skills needed for this journey. Other skills needed for a successful journey include: a sense of knowing one's strengths; the ability to ask for help when needed; the option to live as independently as possible; the chance to participate in the community as fully as possible; and the opportunity to find satisfaction in work and in life-long learning. As parents and professionals, as friends and neighbors, let us support the youth as they make this journey.

