the process or a period of changing from one state or condition to another.

"students in transition from one program to another"

synonyms: growth, development, progress, shift, progression

STARTING YOUNG:

Tips For Transitioning From Early Childhood/Preschool to Kindergarten

- Well child check in with the Family Physician
- Developmental screens through your district
- Understand your child’s developmental milestones
  - Attend Kindergarten orientation
  - Visit the K classroom and meet the teacher
- Prepare for day 1 of school—let your child know what to expect
- If on an IFSP/IEP, schedule a meeting with both current and new team members to ease transition in the spring prior to fall Kindergarten enrollment
ELEMENTARY TO MIDDLE SCHOOL
- Visit the Middle School’s website
- Tour the new school
- Get a copy of your child’s schedule
- Get to know the school counselor
- Attend open house opportunities
- Visit about time management
- Encourage the use of a planner
- If on an IEP, schedule an IEP meeting with current team members and next year’s team members
- Become familiar with adolescent development

MIDDLE SCHOOL TO HIGH SCHOOL
- Attend orientation
- Tour the high school
- Discuss class selection with the guidance counselor
- Explore extracurricular activities
- Review the student handbook
If on an IEP/504 plan:
- Have staff from the high school at the 8th grade transition meeting.
- Start attending your own IEP or 504 meetings.
- Meet and introduce yourself to the high school principal.

GRADUATION!
Wait, before we get there, let’s talk about what it might look like.

First, you might become 18 years old while in high school. What does this mean? You are legally an adult. At this age, you can:

1. Vote
2. Make a will
3. Be a Power of Attorney
4. Become an organ donor
5. Sign an enforceable contract (rent an apartment, purchase a house, car, take out a loan, etc)
6. Obtain medical treatment
7. Enlist in the armed forces
8. Apply for credit

PARENTS, WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOUR CHILD TURNS 18:
- No later than your child’s 17th birthday in SD, the IEP must document that your child has been informed of the rights under IDEA that will transfer at age 18.
- Obtain either a State-Issued, Non-Driver ID card OR Driver’s License
- Explore and apply for Social Security benefits
- Explore the options of guardianship, conservatorship, or supported decision making.
If on an IEP, services should include the following:

- Transition planning: opportunities and programs;
- Transition services and requirements, as authorized by IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act;
- Education and employment options for students and youth with disabilities after leaving secondary school; and
- Supporting decisions made by students and youth with disabilities.

*it is important that preparations for adult life have started*
Who To Talk To If You Have More Questions

In life, we are always transitioning. Being prepared helps make those transitions be as smooth as possible.

South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center
605-484-3401
https://sdsfec.org/

South Dakota Parent Connection
800-640-4553
www.sdparent.org
Resources
  ◆ Resource Guide: Transition To Adulthood
  ◆ Parent Brief: Reaching Age 18

SD Vocational Rehabilitation Programs
1-877-873-8500

SD Department of Labor and Regulation
605.773.3101
https://dlr.sd.gov/

Transition Services Liaison Project
605-494-3618
https://tslp.org/

Understood
https://www.understood.org/
Resources
  ◆ Transition Resources

LifeCourse
https://www.lifecoursetools.com/examples/south-dakota-lifecourse-toolkit/

Center for Parent Information and Resources
(973) 642-8100
https://www.parentcenterhub.org/

NEA: National Education Association
www.nea.org

A Transition Guide To Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth With Disabilities
https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/transition/products/postsecondary-transition-guide-2017.pdf

Making the Transition to College
https://mcgraw.princeton.edu/transition-to-college

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