



Transition to Postsecondary Education and Career Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

- To facilitate quality planning for a successful transition to post-secondary education and career opportunities for students with disabilities, [Section 1002.5716, Florida Statutes \(2023\)](#) requires a student’s Individual Education Plan (IEP) team to begin the *planning process* and IEP development when the student is in grade 7 or when the student attains the age of 12, whichever occurs first.
- This law requires the IEP team to identify the student’s need for transition services to *create meaningful postsecondary goals and career goals* before the student enters high school or attains the age of 14, whichever occurs first. The student’s IEP must be operational and in place for implementation on the first day of the student’s first year of high school.

Information from FLDOE for Students with Disabilities

Graduation Information for Students with Disabilities



The following link contains information on Graduation Requirements, Diploma Options, Scholar Diploma Designation, Industry Scholar Diploma Designation, minimum requirements for the State University System, Florida College System, Career and Technical Colleges and Centers, and more provided by the FLDOE. Please use the following link to access the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE) website on graduation requirements. <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/k-12-public-schools/sss/graduation-requirements/>

Deferral of Receipt of the Standard Diploma

Students with disabilities may be eligible to defer receipt of the standard high school diploma and continue to receive services through public education. The deadline for deferment is **May 15th** of the year the student is expected to graduate. A student with a disability may defer the receipt of a standard high school diploma and continue to receive services if he or she meets the following requirements:

- The individual educational plan (IEP) includes Special Education, transition planning, transition services, or related services through age 21; and
- The student is enrolled in:
 - accelerated college credit instruction pursuant to §1007.27, F.S.
 - industry certification courses that lead to college credit,
 - a collegiate high school program
 - courses necessary to satisfy the Scholar Designation requirements, or
 - a structured work-study, internship, or pre-apprenticeship program

Special Note: Most students with disabilities will graduate and proceed directly into employment, technical college, universities, or the military. Some students may require minimal post-school support from the agency providers listed on the following page, thereby not necessitating deferral.

Information on Pasco County Schools Programs for Student with Disabilities

Career and Technical Education (CTE)



Pasco County Schools offer a wide range of Career, Technical and Adult Education courses that allow students to pursue career pathways that lead to industry certifications. After graduation, CTE students may enter the workforce or pursue post-secondary degrees.

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/cte/page/xcte-career-pathways-opportunities>

Dual Enrollment



Dual enrollment is an acceleration program that allows students to take postsecondary coursework and simultaneously earn credit toward a high school diploma, a career certificate, an industry certification or an associate or baccalaureate degree at a Florida public or eligible private postsecondary institution.

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/oll/page/dual-enrollment>

International Baccalaureate (IB)



The International Baccalaureate® (IB) offers a continuum of international education. The program encourages both personal and academic achievement, challenging students to excel in their studies and in their personal development. The program aims to develop students who have excellent breadth and depth of knowledge – students who flourish physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically. IB World School students develop strong academic, social, and emotional characteristics.

http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/school_choice_catalog/page/international-baccalaureate

Cambridge Program



The Cambridge curriculum and assessments are designed with the five Cambridge attributes in mind: confident, responsible, reflective, innovative, and engaged. The Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) is an innovative and accelerated method of academic study offered solely through the University of Cambridge International Examinations (CIE), a division of the University of Cambridge in Cambridge, England — an institution consistently ranked as one of the top five academic universities in the world.

https://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/school_choice_catalog/page/cambridge_programme

For additional information, please visit the Pasco County Schools Transition Resources Web Page at <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssps/page/transition/>



Information on Required Agencies

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR): All students with an IEP or 504 that are 14 years of age and older qualify for Pre-Employment Transition Services through Vocational Rehabilitation. These services are available and are provided outside of school hours.

Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA): Students with intellectual disabilities that have met requirements for graduation and are exiting the K-12 system by accepting their diploma, ending deferment, or aging out, can apply to a Florida Post-Secondary Comprehensive Transition Program to receive opportunities for college experiences that lead to employment opportunities.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities (APD): All persons that have been diagnosed with severely impaired autism, Cerebral palsy, Spina bifida, Intellectual disabilities, Down syndrome, Prader-Willi syndrome, Phelan-McDermid syndrome or children aged 3-5 who are at a high risk of a developmental disability and their families may qualify to receive supports and services to reach their full potential.

Division of Blind Services (DBS): All persons who are blind or visually impaired can be referred for services so that they can obtain the tools, support and opportunities needed for success.

Disability Achievement Center for Independent Living (DACIL): All persons with disabilities can be referred to receive services and activities which are designed specifically to assist people with disabilities in achieving and maintaining an independent lifestyle.



Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

“To help people with disabilities find and maintain employment and enhance their independence.”

West Pasco: Phone: (727) 484-1430

East Pasco: Phone: (352) 834-6021

Website: rehabworks.org



Agency for Persons with Disabilities

“Supports persons with developmental disabilities in living, learning, and working in all aspects of community life.”

Suncoast Region

1313 North Tampa Street Suite 515

Tampa, FL 33602

Phone: (800) 615-8720, Fax: (813) 233-4302

Website: apd.myflorida.com/area/Suncoast



Florida Division of Blind Services

“To ensure blind and visually-impaired Floridians have the tools, support and opportunity to achieve success”

402 S. Kentucky Avenue, Suite 340

Lakeland, FL 33801

Main Number: (863) 499-2385

Toll Free: (877) 728-7738

Website: dbs.myflorida.com



Disability Achievement Center

“To help individuals with disabilities live safely, independently, and to their fullest potential”

Disability Achievement Center

12552 Belcher Road South. Largo, FL 32773

Phone: (727) 539-7550

Website: www.mydacil.org

Florida Center for Students with UNIQUE ABILITIES

“The purpose of the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities is to provide support to students, families, and institutions of higher education so that students with intellectual disabilities have opportunities for on-campus college experiences that lead to employment opportunities”

Phone: (407) 823-5225

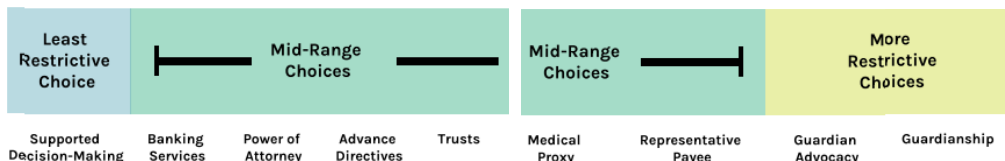
Website: https://fcsua.org/Find_FPCTP.php

A variety of agencies play a role in providing services to students. The IEP team can help make connections between the agencies and the student. Agencies can only be contacted or invited to work with the student with parental consent or the consent of a student who has reached the age of majority. If a referral is made upon consent, the key is for you and your student to follow thru with that agency and maintaining all appointments to receive the needed services.

Information and Instruction Regarding Transfer of Rights at Age 18

Information and instruction pertaining to legal rights and responsibilities that transfer to all students at age 18 and options that include, but are not limited to power of attorney, guardian advocacy, and guardianship that permit parent(s)/guardian(s) continued participation in the education decision making process, please reference the *Considering Age of Majority, Transfer of Rights and Decision-Making Options Document* through the QR code below or with this link -

http://project10.info/Documents/Considering_Age_of_Majority_for_Website_Posting_12.15.23.pdf



English



Spanish