

Northern Cass County Transition Cooperative Resource Guide



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What is Transition?

Anytime your child experiences a change, this is a transition. Moving from teacher to teacher in the course of a day, or year to year, building to building, grade to grade are all examples of transitions. However, when we speak of "Transition", generally we are talking about the movement of youth with disabilities through school and into life as an adult. It involves teamwork between the school, the family, and outside agencies that may provide services to help the student reach their employment, education, and independent living goals. By law, the IEP must address transition by the time a student is 16. This includes a) informal or formal assessment of the student's strengths, preferences, interests, and needs, b) annual goals that are transition aligned, c) postsecondary goals that address employment, education/training, and independent living when the IEP team decides it is necessary, and d) a course of study/program of study that outlines the four-year plan and includes courses that address, or work towards, the student's postsecondary goals.

Transition Legislation

The laws surrounding transition are specific. There are many different laws that govern the services that are provided to youth with disabilities.

WIOA

WIOA is the acronym for new federal legislation called the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. WIOA was signed into law in July 2014 to replace the portion of the Rehab Act formerly known as the Workforce Investment Act (WIA). WIOA is intended to create new opportunities for youth with disabilities to transition from school to college or integrated competitive employment in their communities. Requirements under WIOA also create new responsibilities for schools, in partnership with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), to support students and youth with disabilities to achieve the outcomes of college and employment.

Implications for Schools

School staff and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation staff will continue to work together to provide integrated competitive employment opportunities for students with disabilities as outlined in the Transition Action Guide (TAG). As indicated above, LEA's will retain their current responsibilities for transition planning as outlined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA). Under WIOA, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) will now be an enhanced partner, providing additional services and support to increase the employment outcomes for students with disabilities. WIOA outlines a specific set of Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) that must be provided prior to individuals with disabilities being employed at sub-minimum wage.

IDEA 2004 The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

(IDEA) of 2004 requires states to report data annually on 20 indicators related to compliance and performance of students with disabilities.

Rehabilitation Act

"Disability is a natural part of human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to live independently, enjoy self-determination, make choices, contribute to society, pursue meaningful careers, and enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of American society." Section 2(a)(3) of the Rehabilitation Act

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) gives civil rights protections to people with disabilities. It guarantees individuals with disabilities equal opportunity in employment, public services: state and local government, including public schools and public transportation, public accommodations, and telecommunications.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) (Public Law 110-315)

The HEOA defines the term "comprehensive transition and postsecondary program for students with intellectual disabilities" to mean a degree, certificate, or non degree program.

Domains

The major transition domain areas include (a) postsecondary education and training, (b) employment, (c) life skills and community living, (d) recreation and leisure, (e) community participation, (f) financial supports and services, (g) advocacy and support services, and (h) medical and other health-related needs.

Decision Making

Supported Decision Making

Supported decision-making is an alternative to guardianship that allows an individual with a disability to work with a team and make their own choices about their own life. Under this model, the individual designates people to be part of a support network to help with decision-making. Supported decision-making promotes self-determination, control and autonomy and it fosters independence. This enables the person to make their own decisions with assistance from a trusted network of supporters.

Likewise, people with disabilities may need assistance making decisions about living arrangements, health care, lifestyles and financial matters, but they don't necessarily need a guardian to make those decisions for them. What they might need instead is a trusted network of supporters to field their questions and review their options so they too can confer and consult, and then reach their own decisions. Supporters can be family members, co-workers, friends, and past or present providers (though many supported decision-making models discourage paid staff on support networks). It is critically important that the individual selects supporters who know and respect their will and preferences, and will honor the choices and decisions the individual makes.

Other Options

Because a person's decision making authority is limited and because a court order is required to remove a guardian or conservator, it is always wise to consider other options before considering guardianship or conservatorship. Some alternatives may include arranging for a full or part time caregiver or establishing a trust. In some cases, the agent named in a previously established durable power of attorney may begin making decisions for the person whose capacity is questioned. For those situations in which a person may still be partially able to manage their care or finances, the appointment of a limited guardian or limited conservator may be a more appropriate option than full guardianship or conservatorship.

Remember, that a guardian or conservator is appointed for someone that the court has determined to be incapacitated. This legal process should not be sought simply because a person makes a decision that other people do not understand or like.

Power of Attorney

A **medical power of** (also known as a health care power of attorney or durable power of attorney for health care) is a legal document that authorizes a trusted person (called an agent, attorney-in fact, or surrogate) to make medical decisions on your behalf. The agent only has this authority if it is determined by your doctor that you are incapable of making such decisions, or you are unable to communicate your wishes.

The durable **financial power of attorney** is a way to allow someone else to manage your finances in the event that you become incapacitated and are unable to make those decisions yourself....it grants someone legal authority to act on your behalf for financial issues.

Limited Conservatorship

Limited conservatorship applies when a person is determined by a court to have limited incapacity in handling their financial affairs. The court will grant certain powers and duties to a limited conservator, allowing the person to remain somewhat independent by handling those financial affairs that they are still capable of managing.

Conservatorship

Similar to a guardian except that the person appointed by a court is to handle the financial affairs of a minor or another person who has been legally determined to be incapable and/or lacks the capacity to handle their finances.

Limited Guardianship

A court finds a person has limited incapacity in making decisions affecting their care. Based on the person's abilities, the court determines what powers and duties shall be given to the limited guardian and what may be retained by the person to allow as much independent decision-making as is appropriate.

Guardianship

A person appointed by a court to have care and custody of a minor or another person who has been legally determined to be incapacitated after the court determines a person's inability to make decisions affecting their care. If it is determined that the person lacks this capacity, a guardian is appointed to make decisions on behalf of the individual. These more restrictive options are legal proceedings, involving the courts and attorneys.

Financial supports and services

This domain refers to support and services that an individual with a disability can access to help with the costs of living and health care. This would include Social Security, food stamps, Medicare, Medicaid, or any other local, state, or federal organization or agency which will help individuals with the cost of living, education/training, and/or employment. This domain is important because it allows an individual to access resources and funds that provide an income. This allows the individual to obtain desired housing and provide for their basic needs without being dependent on family.

Medical and other health-related needs

This domain includes service providers for physical, mental, and disability specific health related prevention and treatment. This would include general check-ups, counseling, medication, and other health services. This domain is important because health prevention and treatment is one of the most costly services a person encounters and individuals with disabilities sometimes incur more medical cost than others. Because of the expense, they may either neglect their health or eliminate basic needs in order to afford medical care.

Advocacy and support services

This domain includes agencies and supports that serve individuals with disabilities regarding their rights and services available to help them access benefits, their environments, civil rights protection, treatment and counseling, etc. These agencies can be general or specific to a certain disability. This domain is important because individuals with disabilities are taken advantage of and have their rights infringed on more frequently than individuals without disabilities.

Post-Secondary Employment

Employment

This domain refers to an individual's ability to obtain and retain employment, whether it is supported employment, competitive employment, or self-employment. Employment is important because it allows an individual to obtain earning power, be self-reliant, and provide for their needs and wants. Being employed allows an individual to have more control over their contribution to their community, be more independent, and improve their quality of life. Employment plays a large part in a person's quality of life and feelings of being a contributing member of society.

- **Sheltered Employment**

Segregated programs designed to help individuals with disabilities who are not able to work in a competitive or supportive employment setting. Sheltered workshops, day treatment, and work activity centers are examples of sheltered employment programs.

- **Casco** Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for the people we serve through growth, experience, and community inclusion.

- **Competitive Employment**

Assisted with obtaining and maintaining employment through job crew, a job coach or person-centered approaches.

- **Supportive Employment**

Assisted with obtaining and maintaining employment through assistance from a job coach, on the job training or person-centered approaches. Supported employment is considered to be one form of expected, together with benefits from an employer in a competitive workplace.

- **Pre-Employment Transition Services**

Pre-Employment Transition Specialists Schools, in collaboration with DVR, will need to offer Pre-ETS to transition age students with disabilities (ages 14-21). As spelled out in WIOA, (Pre-ETS) include:

- Job exploration counseling
- Work-based learning experiences, (which may include in-school or after school opportunities, experience outside the traditional school setting including internships, that are provided in an integrated environment)
- Counseling on opportunities in comprehensive transition or enrollment in postsecondary educational programs
- Workplace readiness training to develop social skills and independent living
- Instruction in self-advocacy/peer mentoring

- **Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

If you want to work but have a disability that keeps you from finding, keeping or advancing in a job, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) may be able to help you. VR specializes in employment and training services that can assist you in becoming employed. A VR counselor will determine your eligibility for services. To be eligible, you need to have a physical or mental impairment that causes problems with working and need VR services to be successfully employed. Once eligible, you will work with a counselor who will help you develop a plan for your rehabilitation. We will give you vocational information and guidance allowing you to make informed choices about your vocational plan.

VR offers a wide range of services that are individualized for your needs. You and your counselor decide which services will help you become employed. Some of the services that may be available are

- Guidance and counseling
- Job-seeking skills and job placement
- Vocational training

Post-Secondary Education/Training

Post-secondary education and training

This domain includes any type of continuing education after high school. This training may be part of a formal education received from a college, university, technical or vocational program, public or private. This domain is important because specific training is often required for many jobs in the competitive workforce. If an individual desires a specific type of job, it usually requires training in specific skills which are obtained through post-secondary education and training. This education provides marketable skills to individuals, which will lead to more choices and higher earning capacity.

Academic Support Services

The postsecondary school (college) is required to provide appropriate academic adjustments as necessary to ensure that it does not discriminate on the basis of disability. In addition, if your postsecondary school provides housing to nondisabled students, it must provide comparable, convenient, and accessible housing to students with disabilities at the same cost.

Accommodations/Modifications in College

Documentation requirements will vary by campus and may be on a case by case basis but could include:

- Records of past accommodations such as an IEP or 504 plan
- Formal psychological or medical evaluation reports
- Diagnosis of current disability

If the documentation that you have does not meet the post-secondary school requirements, a school official should tell you in a timely manner what additional documentation you need to provide. You may need a new evaluation in order to provide the required documentation.

Vocational/Trade Schools

Form of education designed to teach students the skills needed to perform a particular task/job.

- Hands on practical learning
- Accelerated Learning Programs
- Potentially offer apprenticeships to further knowledge
- Potentially offer certifications

Post-Secondary Special Programming

Programming for young adults with disabilities and their families to successfully transition from school to adult life in the ways that lead to ongoing employment, community, engagement, peer interactions while learning and implementing daily living skills to allow them to become successful, independent individuals.

[THRIVE](#) University of Central Missouri

[Bear POWER](#) Missouri State University

[KU TPE](#) Kansas University

[Teaming for Transition](#) University of Arkansas

[SUCCEED](#) University of Missouri-St. Louis

[ALPS University](#) Special Olympics Missouri

Independent Living

Life Skills and Community Living

This domain includes support services that allow an individual to access their community, as well as living options, such as independent, supported, and assisted living. This domain would include activities, such as household maintenance, personal care, grocery shopping, cooking, and accessing their community in a way which allows for the maximum amount of independence. Life skills and community living is important because the greater a person's independence, the less they are dependent upon services and personnel. The more adept a person's life skills and community living is, the more they are self-determined, independent, self-reliant, which increases their quality of life.

- **Shared Housing Arrangement**

Shared housing is defined as an arrangement in which two or more unrelated people share a house or an apartment.

- **Section 8 Housing**

Allows people with mild or moderate special needs and low incomes to live on their own in the community. However, it usually takes 9 years to obtain a Section 8 voucher and, once acquired, there may not be any available Section 8 units for rent in the individual's community.

- **Assisted Living Facilities**

In general, assisted living facilities house residents in their own apartments within a building or complex of buildings. The residents can cook in their units or eat in a communal dining hall, and they receive non-skilled care in their units, including assistance with bathing, cleaning and sometimes administration of medicine.

- **Group Home**

Live in supportive group homes with several other people with special needs. These homes could be staffed with counselors and other workers who help the residents live on their own, or, in some cases, the residents live without live-in assistance.

- **Supported Living**

Live throughout the community, in a home of their choosing, with staff that come into the home and assist with independent living skills based on the individual's needs.

- **Independent Supported Living**

Live throughout the community, in a home of their choosing, with staff that come into the home and assist with independent living skills based on the individual's needs.

- **Living with parents or family members**

Live with their parents or other family members. People with special needs who live with their parents don't have to experience the sometimes stressful transition into a different type of housing when they become adults, and they are usually surrounded by caregivers (their family members) who have experience with their specific special needs. As parents age, it may become impossible for them to care for their child anymore, and the transition from a life-long residence could be more traumatic than if the transition was made at a younger age.

Recreation and Leisure

This domain plays a large part in a person's feeling of satisfaction and quality of life. This includes activities that provide enjoyment, amusement, and pleasure such as [Special Olympics Missouri](#), as well as other options within the community. Recreation and leisure are activities that an individual chooses to engage in to relax, enjoy, and/or improve their wellbeing. Recreation and leisure provides psychological and physical benefits, for a healthier lifestyle.

Community Participation

This domain refers to the extent in which an individual engages in their community, such as community activities, church activities, doctor visits, volunteer opportunities, voting, using public transportation, etc. Community participation allows an individual to actively participate in their environment, make choices regarding their day, and be contributing members of their community. Community participation is important because it gives the individual a feeling of integration, increased independence, and improved quality of life.

Agency Services and Contact Information

AGENCY NAME & CONTACT INFORMATION	DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES
<p>Ability KC 3011 Baltimore Avenue Kansas City, MO (800) 726-3713</p>	<p>Services include: medical rehabilitation, therapeutic preschool, employment services and specialty assessments such as Driving Accommodation needs, Assistive Tech, and Aquatic Therapy. Typically funded through KCRO or VR.</p>
<p>ACT-TAY: A program of Compass Community Health Assertive Community Treatment With Transitional Age Youth 816-318-4430</p> <p>Crisis Line: 1-844-853-8937 After Hours Crisis Line: 1-800-833-3915 https://compasshealthnetwork.org/</p>	<p>Intensive wrap-around services Re: community, employment and independent living for ages 16-25 with a qualifying mental health Dx & Medicaid eligible.</p>
<p>ALPS University https://somo.org/alps</p>	<p>Offers classes to potential athlete-leaders such as: public speaking, technology, governance & job skills.</p>
<p>CASCO 1800 Vine Harrisonville, MO 64701 (816) 380-7359 http://www.casco-aw.com</p>	<p>Casco exists to provide meaningful experience to people with disabilities which enable them to increase their independence. Our goal is to enhance the quality of life for the people we serve through growth, experience, and community inclusion.</p>
<p>Cass County Family Services Office 2500 East Mechanic St. Harrisonville, MO 64701 (816) 380-3597</p>	<p>Aid, resources and services for low-income individuals or families: food stamps, health care, child care, child support, and other needs.</p>
<p>CHOICES of Cass County 1800 Vine Harrisonville, MO 64701 (816) 380-7359 http://www.casco-aw.com/</p>	<p>Provides services that assist individuals with developmental disabilities in maximizing their quality of life. Eligibility for services is determined by the Kansas City Regional Office (KCRO)</p>
<p>Community Services League 404 North Noland Rd Independence, MO 64050 www.cslcares.org</p>	<p>To assist communities in reaching their potential by providing immediate relief to people in need, assessing their situations, and providing solutions that lead to economic stability.</p>
<p>Compass Health (Formerly Pathways) 1010 Remington Plaza Raymore, MO 64083 816-318-4430</p> <p>Crisis Line: 1-844-853-8937 After Hours Crisis Line: 1-800-833-3915 https://compasshealthnetwork.org/</p>	<p>Nonprofit, income based payments & Medicaid eligible healthcare offering behavioral health services as well as primary and dental health services.</p>
<p>Connecting for Good</p>	<p>Providing Kansas City's vulnerable populations in low-income communities with digital literacy training and</p>

3210 Michigan Ave. Kansas City, MO Phone: (816) 559-7077	internet access to promote connectivity.
Full Employment Council 1740 Paseo Kansas City, MO 64108 www.feckc.org	Offers employment services and career counseling for adult and young adult job seekers, and comprehensive recruitment, screening and customized training programs for employers.
Goodwill of Western Missouri & Eastern Kansas 1817 Campbell St. Kansas City, MO 64108 816-842-7425 https://www.mokangoodwill.org/	Goodwill empowers people with disadvantages and different abilities to earn and keep employment through individualized programs and services.
Institute for Human Development 2220 Holmes Kansas City, MO 64108 816-235-1763 800-444-0821	Functions include interdisciplinary training, applied research, community program development and information dissemination. F2F (Missouri Family to Family) peer support services (see listing below)
Job One Careers 12604 A Third St. Grandview, MO 64030 (816) 763-7822	Employment services as determined by Voc Rehab: Career Counseling & Guidance, Employee Development, Job Development, Job Placement Services, and Job Training.
Job Corps Excelsior Springs Center 701 St. Louis Avenue Excelsior Springs, MO (816) 629-3111 https://excelsiorsprings.jobcorps.gov/	No-cost, job training that also provides HS grad assistance, food, basic medical and housing for 6 to 24 month skills training. Open Tours every Friday @ 9:30: Bring picture ID and proper foot & outerwear. Financial component for eligibility. Ages 16-24
Joshua Center (816) 763-7605 https://joshuacenter.com	Provides services & support for the social, emotional, and educational needs of neurologically impaired children and their families, including children with Tourette Syndrome, High Functioning Autism, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, Sensory Processing Disorder and ADHD.
Kansas City Regional Office Intake: (816) 899-3400	This agency is for students with Developmental Disabilities such as: autism, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, head injury, learning disabilities, mental health disorders, etc. KCRO is the intake facility that will take the initial information from the parent. In Cass County; families will be directed to CHOICES of Cass County for services. These services can start early in the transition process to help with case management services.
MCC Business & Technology Gold Collar Program 1775 Universal Ave. Kansas City, MO 64108 https://mcckc.edu	Gold Collar Career Pathways teach skills for local area high demand jobs that can be acquired with an associate's degree or less with buildable job-ready certificates.
MCC Longview Disability Support Services 500 SW Longview Rd. Lee's Summit, MO 64081 Keith Kaster, Program Director keith.kaster@mcckc.edu https://mcckc.edu	Metro Community College-Longview free college-preparedness S.C.O.P.E. is a newly created program. The Office of Disabilities will also help as to what type of accommodations and supports are available at the college level in regards to an IEP/504 Plan.

Missouri Assistive Technology 1501 NW Jefferson St. Blue Springs, MO 64015 800-647-8557 www.at.mo.gov	Strives to increase access to assistive technology for Missourians with all types of disabilities, of all ages.
Missouri Bar https://www.mobar.org/	Provides legal information & resources such as: brochures, local presentations/speakers, find/research lawyers & blank DIY legal forms
Missouri Family to Family Resources http://mofamilytofamily.org/	Statewide network offering free support to people with disabilities and their families including parent peer support program.
MO Guardianship https://moguardianship.com	Online information, training, videos and workbook to aid families in understanding various options and alternatives for guardianship.
MPACT (800) 743-7634 http://www.missouriparentsact.org/	Provides Parent Training and Information, funded in part by the U.S. Department of Education and the State of Missouri
Pre-Employment Transition Services https://education.missouri.edu/outreach/pre-employment-transition-services/	Pre-ETS is an outreach program of the MU College of Education, offers no-cost pre-employment transition services provided to Missouri public school students with disabilities, ages 16-21, who are potentially eligible for vocational rehabilitation services.
Preferred Employment Services 3001 N Hwy 291, Suite 2 Harrisonville, MO 64701 (816) 884-3008 https://pfh.org/employment-services/	Works with individuals with various disabilities, both developmental or physical in nature, as they prepare to enter the workforce.
Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213 Monday-Friday (7am-7pm) www.socialsecurity.gov	Administers the Social Security retirement, survivors and disability insurance programs and SSI for the aged, blind, and disabled. Offers online application & benefits management.
Special Olympics 305 Special Olympics Dr. Jefferson City, MO 65101 Phone: (575)- 635- 1660 somo.org	Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.
The Whole Person 3710 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64108 (816) 561-0304 https://thewholeperson.org/	Non-profit agency providing information & services to people with disabilities and their families to assist in the identification and implementation of appropriate resources. Employment Services provide support, guidance and job coaching as determined & funded through Voc Rehab. Benefits Specialist, Center for Independent Living, support groups and youth advocacy are other services available.
Thrive Program (UCM) University of Central Missouri 520 S. Maguire Warrensburg, MO 64093 (660) 543-4204 thrive@ucmo.edu	Two-year on campus college experience program. Students live in UCM dorms and work to further develop academic, social and job skills, while also participating in career-focused internships. Graduates earn a Certificate of Success and prepare a personal portfolio. Some students

Mike Brunkhorst, Director	may then go on to earn a degree at UCM utilizing appropriate campus disability support services.
Truman Employment Services 300 W 19th Terr. Kansas City, MO 64108 (816) 404-6257	Supports individuals with intellectual disabilities while working to obtain gainful employment as determined through Vocational Rehabilitation. Offers assistance with Social Security benefits, as well.
Vocational Rehabilitation 621 E. Highland Ave. Nevada, MO 64772 (800) 598-3471 https://dese.mo.gov/adult-learning-rehabilitation-services/vocational-rehabilitation	Vocational Rehabilitation is an adult agency that is made up of a series of services that are designed to facilitate the entrance into, or return to, work by people who have recently acquired an injury or have an identified physical, intellectual or mental disability.
West Central Missouri Community Action Agency 208 W Walnut St Raymore, MO 64083 (816) 318-3922	Offers community programs to help those in need. Emergency utility, energy and food assistance, life skills training classes, and transition services for the homeless to become self-sufficient.