



Family & Educator Partnership



Questions for parents if your student is in 8th -12th grade

Middle and high school are exciting and busy years. As parents and teachers, we think about what the future might hold for our kids, and wonder how what is happening now might change the direction of their adult lives.

As children transition from childhood to adulthood during these years, it is important to determine what they know, what they need to learn and what experiences they need to make their adult plans turn into reality.

Let's look at this in the areas of living, learning and working by thinking about the following questions to determine what your child already knows about his/her future:

LIVING

Does he want to live on his own as an adult? Does she have the ability to acquire the skills to live on her own? Can he cook, clean, shop, understand contracts, know where to go to hook up utilities, budget a bank account, pay bills on time, etc.?

If not, has your son or daughter started to work on these skills? Will your child need supported living arrangements as an adult? How can you prepare for those living arrangements?

LEARNING

Does she want to go to college, vocational or tech school, take night classes while working a job? Does he have the ability to self-advocate for himself so that he can get what he needs when he needs it? Can she explain her disability and the accommodations she needs to be successful? Does he have good study skills? Does he know what classes he needs to take in high school, and college for the career he has chosen?

Preparation for college has to start very early so students develop good study skills, have success in academics, know how to ask for help when they need it and have a chance to discover their areas of strength and interests. Not all students will go to college after high school, but we all need to continue to learn.

WORKING

Does he know what work he wants to do? Does he know the high school classes that might help him on that career path? Has she had a job or volunteered anywhere away from home? Does she get ready for school on her own? Does he know what he needs to do to keep a job?

Good hygiene and grooming, learning to be dependable, on time, have good attendance, and getting along with others are all essential for connecting with the right job. Students must learn how to complete an application, interview for a job, and ask questions appropriately.

Odds are your son or daughter couldn't answer all of these questions and there is plenty to get done in the next few years before your child graduates from high school. The good news is the IEP is a tool to help plan and provide your child's education program and experiences so that he is prepared for adult learning, living and working. See "Parent Guide for Planning for the Future" to help you organize your thoughts.

If you have questions or would like some ideas, please talk to you son or daughter's special education teacher. Contact FEP Coordinators: Loni Jorgenson, 641-355-4242/ 800-392-6640 or April Wooldridge, 641-485-9166/ 641-753-3564/ 800-735-1539 for additional information.



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