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Coffee Hour – September 17, 2020

**Partnering with Families in Preparing for Life after School**

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# What do you think are important keys in partnering with families in preparing for life after school?

# Keys to Partnering with Families in Preparing for Life after School

* Understand that parents' emotions may run high through the years leading up to graduation.
* Acknowledge the grief and anxiety of losing school supports and services

# Support families by...

* Realizing that every family has its own pace for letting go
* Honoring the variety of parenting styles and visions for the future
* Respecting what you may think “unrealistic” dreams by regarding them as an opening to talk about an area of interest or passion

# Be sure parents understand:

* IDEA **mandates** transition services
* Transition must be addressed in IEP by age 14
* Goals should be based on student's interests, needs and preferences

# Be sure families know:

* Students must attend IEP meetings and become engaged in the process
* Planning process is available (not ARD)
* District's transition services and options, key transition staff
* When their child will graduate (18-22) and under what graduation plan
* About and are connected with community resources.
* How to find consumer and family organizations.
* Details about graduates who have realized success in post-school activities.

# Conversation Starters

## How confident are you on each of these steps for your son or daughter?

## \_\_\_very confident \_\_\_somewhat confident \_\_\_not very confident

* Deciding what’s most important to your son or daughter
* Taking control of the vision
* Teaching relevant skills
* Finding support and help
* Looking for opportunities

# Briefly define what you would consider success for your child after graduation

* What would help your child experience purpose, satisfaction and joy?
* How would your child describe a successful life if he or she were in control?
* Is your child ready to make these important decisions about his or her life, or is discovery needed?
* There is more to life than work. Consider all aspects of your child’s life.

# Conditions for Success

List conditions your child must have in order to be successful.

Example: routine, wait time, a schedule to follow, be indoors, frequent breaks, etc.

# What things are meaningful, purposeful, and enjoyable for the person? How does he or she want to spend their time?

## Make a list of current activities that match your child’s interests/preferences. Then take the list and brainstorm ideas for the following:

* How could it be job?
* How could it be a business?
* How could it help as a community service or in a place that needs volunteers?
* How could it bring you together with neighbors or others in the community?
* Could you do it for fun?
* Could it help you manage your home?
* Could it help you car for yourself?

Can you think of other activities to try that might engage your child in meaningful and enjoyable discovery experiences?

# Decision Making

* What are some decisions your child currently makes?
* What are some additional decision making activities he or she might try?

# Responsibilities

* What responsibilities does your child already have?
* What new responsibilities can he or she take on?

# What Services and Supports Would benefit My Child in the Future?

Make note of services you learn about that might be important in the future for your son or daughter. List contact names, phone numbers, or email addresses. Make a note of any action you need to take.

# Thank you for joining us today!

**Resources**

## Understanding Transition Planning

#### Good Websites to Learn About Transition Planning in Texas

* [Texas Transition: Student-Centered Transitions Network](https://www.texastransition.org/)

The Texas Transition website is an activity of the Student-Centered Transitions Network (SCTN) in collaboration with the Texas Education Agency (TEA). This website was designed with your needs in mind, whether you are a student with a disability, a parent, or an educator. You will notice different sections of the website devoted to each of these essential stakeholders.

* [Texas Education Agency (TEA) Secondary Transition Guidance](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=18:good-websites-to-learn-about-transition-planning-in-texas&id=2:texas-education-agency-tea-secondary-transition-guidance)

On this page you will find information about transition from school settings to post-school settings.

* [Navigate Life Texas - Transition to Adulthood](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=18:good-websites-to-learn-about-transition-planning-in-texas&id=3:navigate-life-texas-transition-to-adulthood)

Navigate Life Texas was funded and developed by the Texas Inter-agency Task Force for Children with Special Needs with the support the the Texas Health and Human Services Commission.  Navigate Life Texas was developed by parents, for parents. Most of the content is written by parents of children and adults with disabilities or special healthcare needs.

* [Pathways to Adulthood Transition Program (Texas Parent to Parent)](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=18:good-websites-to-learn-about-transition-planning-in-texas&id=4:pathways-to-adulthood-texas-parent-to-parent)

The TxP2P Pathways to Adulthood program assists families to plan a good life for their sons and daughters with disabilities after graduation from public school, and provides support, information and tools for carrying out this plan.

* [Texas Project First](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=18:good-websites-to-learn-about-transition-planning-in-texas&id=8:texas-project-first-transition-and-the-future)

Families, information, resources, support & training created by parents, for parents. This web site is a project of the Texas Education Agency and is committed to providing accurate and consistent information to parents & families of students with disabilities.

* + [Texas Project First - Transition and the Future](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/203)
  + [Texas Project First - Transition in the IEP](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/225)
  + [Texas Project First (page for ages 11 - 15)](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/6)
  + [Texas Project First (page for ages 16 - 21)](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/28)
  + [Texas Project First - Employment Resources](http://www.texasprojectfirst.org/node/234)

#### National Websites About Transition Planning

* [National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT)](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=10:national-technical-assistance-center-on-transition-ntact)

NTACT’s purpose is to assist State Education Agencies, Local Education Agencies, State VR agencies, and VR service providers in implementing evidence-based and promising practices ensuring students with disabilities, including those with significant disabilities, graduate prepared for success in post-secondary education and employment.

* [National Center on Secondary Education and Transition](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=11:national-center-on-secondary-education-and-transition)

The National Center on Secondary Education and Transition (NCSET) coordinates national resources, offers technical assistance, and disseminates information related to secondary education and transition for youth to achieve successful futures. NCSET is headquartered at the Institute on Community Integration in the University of Minnesota's College of Education and Human Development.

* [Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN)](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=60:planned-lifetime-advocacy-network-plan)

Planned Lifetime Advocacy Network (PLAN) is family-led charitable organization dedicated to building inclusive communities for all citizens. We were founded in 1989 by parents who wanted to ensure their children could live a good life and contribute to their communities.

* [PACER's National Parent Center on Transition and Employment](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=12:pacer-s-national-parent-center-on-transition-and-employment)

PACER’s National Parent Center on Transition and Employment provides relevant information and resources to parents, youth, and professionals through a variety of services.

* [Life After IEPs](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=13:life-after-ieps)

Transition resources and support for you and your teen.

* [Transition, Transition Services, Transition Planning (Wrights Law)](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=63:transition-transition-services-transition-planning-wrights-law)

Wrightslaw has information about special education law, education law, and advocacy for children with disabilities.

#### Transition Websites Specifically Related to Students with Visual Impairments, Blindness, and Deafblindness

* [CareerConnect®: For Job Seekers Who Are Blind or Visually Impaired - American Foundation for the Blind](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=20:transition-websites-specifically-related-to-students-with-visual-impairments-blindness-and-deafblindness&id=14:careerconnect-for-job-seekers-who-are-blind-or-visually-impaired-american-foundation-for-the-blind)

CareerConnect® presents employment information, career exploration tools, and extensive job seeking guidance for students and adults with vision loss and the professionals who work with them.

* [Expanded Core Curriculum – American Foundation for the Blind](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=20:transition-websites-specifically-related-to-students-with-visual-impairments-blindness-and-deafblindness&id=15:expanded-core-curriculum-american-foundation-for-the-blind)

The Expanded Core Curriculum (ECC) is the body of knowledge and skills that are needed by students with visual impairments due to their unique disability-specific needs.

* [Resources for Working - National Federation of the Blind](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=20:transition-websites-specifically-related-to-students-with-visual-impairments-blindness-and-deafblindness&id=16:resources-for-working-national-federation-of-the-blind)

The National Federation of the Blind knows that blindness is not the characteristic that defines you or your future. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams.

* [Transition for Youth with Visual Impairments - Perkins eLearning](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=20:transition-websites-specifically-related-to-students-with-visual-impairments-blindness-and-deafblindness&id=17:transition-for-youth-with-visual-impairments-perkins-elearning)

In making the transition from the school years to adult life, students who are blind or visually impaired need information and advice specific to their needs. In this section you'll find resources for students, parents, families, and professionals.

* [National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB) Library – Transition to Adulthood](https://texasvitransition.org/component/weblinks/?task=weblink.go&catid=19:national-websites-about-transition-planning&id=61:ncdb-library)

Making a change from one setting to another, or transitioning from one phase of life to another, can be challenging for anyone. It can be particularly difficult for youngsters who rely on routine and predictability to make up for the information they cannot access through vision and hearing. This section explores information about how to plan for successful transitions for students who are deaf-blind.

**Services & Organizations**

Services & Organizations Supporting Transition Activities and Community Life for Graduates

#### Texas State Agencies

* [Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) - Long-term Care for People with Medical or Physical Disabilities](https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/long-term-care-people-medical-or-physical-disabilities)
* [Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) - Services](https://hhs.texas.gov/hhs-services)
* [Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Vocational Rehabilitation and Transition](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/vocational-rehabilitation-services)  
  + [Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/jobseekers/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center) – The Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC) is an innovative, residential vocational rehabilitation training facility that serves adults who are legally blind by helping them learn alternative techniques to prepare for, find or retain employment, attend a college, university or trade school, and live independently in the community.
  + [Texas Workforce Solutions Offices](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/directory-workforce-solutions-offices-services-0) – Find your local office of Texas Workforce Solutions for Vocational Rehabilitation and Transition services.

#### Community Services

* [American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) Center on Vision Loss](http://www.afb.org/info/programs-and-services/center-on-vision-loss/12) – The American Foundation for the Blind Center on Vision Loss, located in Dallas, Texas, is a unique part of AFB dedicated to helping the 25 million Americans with vision loss find resources, professional services, and workable solutions to many issues related to living independently. We offer life-changing information and have over 500 products and devices on display that can help you.
* [Described and Captioned Media Program](https://dcmp.org/) – Streaming TV and Movies, DVDs, Interactive Media, Resources, and more to educate students with sensory disabilities, along with their parents and teachers. Our major network-produced, educational content is carefully customized to serve the needs of K-12 students, as well as adult students studying to meet the needs of blind and deaf students.
* [Learning Ally](https://www.learningally.org/CollegeSuccess) – Learning Ally was originally founded in 1948 as Recording for the Blind. Over the years, Learning Ally has grown from a small volunteer effort into a national organization that remains committed to serving students who are blind or visually impaired.
* **Lighthouses for the Blind in Texas** – It is our mission to enhance the opportunities for economic and personal independence of persons who are blind, primarily through creating, sustaining and improving employment.
  + [Austin Lighthouse – Travis Association for the Blind](http://www.austinlighthouse.org/)
  + [Beacon Lighthouse, Wichita Falls](http://www.beaconwf.com/)
  + [Dallas Lighthouse for the Blind](https://www.dallaslighthouse.org/)
  + [East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind](http://www.tylerlighthouse.org/)
  + [Lighthouse for the Blind of Ft. Worth](https://lighthousefw.org/)
  + [The Lighthouse of Houston](http://www.houstonlighthouse.org/)
  + [San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind](https://www.salighthouse.org/)
  + [South Texas Lighthouse for the Blind](http://www.stlb.net/)
  + [West Texas Lighthouse for the Blind](http://www.lighthousefortheblind.org/)
* [Texas State Library Talking Book Program](https://www.tsl.texas.gov/tbp/index.html) – The Talking Book Program (TBP) provides free library services to qualifying Texans with visual, physical, or reading disabilities. TBP is part of the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, a program administered by the Library of Congress.
* [Touch Base Center for the Deafblind](http://www.touchbasecenter.org/) – Touch Base: Center for the Deafblind, located in Houston, is a nonprofit organization created to benefit deafblind people after they graduate from school. The organization provides a place where deafblind men and women and their interveners can particpate in organized, meaningful, and purposeful activities for four to six hours daily under the supervision of a program coordinator.

#### Consumer Organizations

* [The American Council of the Blind of Texas](http://www.acbtexas.org/) – ACBT works to be an advocacy organization and positive, proactive support system to Texans who are blind or visually impaired. Although the majority of members are blind or visually impaired, sighted persons who share the common goals and interests of our organization are also welcome to join. ACBT currently has nine chapters and three special interest affiliates.
* [DeafBlind Camp of Texas](http://www.dbctx.org/) – Our mission is to empower people who are DeafBlind through equal opportunities to live fully and productively, including full access to employment, technology, education, and to enable socialization to reduce isolation.
* [National Federation of the Blind Texas](https://www.nfbtx.org/) – The National Federation of the Blind is an organization of over 50,000 blind people, striving to promote equal opportunity for the blind. The Federation works toward the removal of legal, economic, and societal barriers to full participation by blind people in employment, education, recreation, and all other aspects of community life.

#### Family Organizations

* [Deaf-Blind Multihandicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)](http://www.dbmat-tx.org/) – Family organization that advocates and informs policy-makers, as well as an annual retreat for the entire family.
* [Texas Association for Parents and Children with VIsual Impairments (TAPVI)](https://www.tapvi.org/) – TAPVI 501(c)(3) is a non-profit organization made up of parents and professionals committed to providing support to families of children who have blindness or visual impairments including those with other disabilities.
* [Texas Chargers](http://texaschargers.org/) – Texas Chargers, Inc. encourages, educates, and enriches individuals and families living with CHARGE Syndrome.
* [Texas Parent to Parent](https://www.txp2p.org/) – Texas Parent to Parent (TxP2P) is committed to improving the lives of Texas children who have disabilities, chronic illness, and/or special health care needs.

#### Resource Lists

* [Enhanced Vision – Texas Low Vision Resources](https://www.enhancedvision.com/low-vision-resources/texas-low-vision-resources.html)