

*Monthly tips and resources for young adults, their families, and supporters who are exploring options for life after high school in Indiana.*

## Transition IEP Meetings: Understanding Your Role and the Process

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Students with an individualized education plan (IEP) should be familiar with transition case conferences. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires a case conference annually. At these meetings, you, the student, are the focus of attention. In general, the annual IEP plan helps you transition from high school to adult activities and responsibilities. This change is a huge step, and it means figuring out what to do for a job, deciding where to live, and whether to pursue ongoing education. It also involves adult responsibilities such as taking care of your health, being in control of your spending habits, staying emotionally healthy, or building new relationships. Transition IEP meetings cover some of the same information from IEP meetings, but with a few additional topics to discuss such as transition services and activities.



### What Should a Transition IEP Meeting Look Like?

Annual transition IEP meetings should cover your graduation pathway choice, transition services, annual goals, transition assessments, and postsecondary goals. This meeting ensures your goals and school services align with your needs and contribute to your success. Your annual transition IEP meeting should include key members of your school support team, such as:

- Your teacher of record,
- May include other school staff, like speech or occupational therapy staff,
- And, with your invitation, other people who know you and support you outside of school. This includes siblings, parents, adult agency providers, neighbors, friends, etc. It's your choice.

At the transition meeting, the focus is on preparing for life after high school. This meeting happens while you're still 17, but schools have different rules to determine when it should happen. The discussions will center on your goals for employment, education, living preferences, and support services to help you achieve success as an adult.

### What Is Your Role?

- Figure out your legal preferences around guardianship as early as possible. Decide before you turn 18.
- Consider leading your own IEP and transition meetings. Use the resources below for guidance and tips.

- Invite individuals who can advocate for your decisions, and feel free to include any adult service providers you've chosen or are considering, such as Vocational Rehabilitation.
- Be firm in your choices for adult employment, education, and living preferences. Remember it is your life, after all.
- Before the transition planning meeting, write a list of topics you want to discuss.
- Maintain a positive attitude and advocate for yourself.

## Resources:

- The Arc of Indiana: [Guardianship and Alternatives to Guardianship](#)
- Indiana Disability Rights: [Get Started with Supported Decision-Making \(SDM\)](#)
- Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center (PEATC): [Self-Directed IEP Meetings](#)
- Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network: [Student-Led IEP Resources Hub](#)
- Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network: [What is the Transition IEP?](#)
- Wisconsin Family Assistance Education, Training & Support: [The Transition IEP Checklist](#)

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