



## **TRANSITION CHECKLIST**



- **What's in Your Wallet?**
  - Your student needs many of the same cards & identification you carry
    - For example: Personal ID card (State ID or other)
  - Every student should have their own bank account!
  
- **In the greater Chicago area: Look into RTA ADA Paratransit Certification Services or Door to Door Services**
  - [www.rtachicago.com](http://www.rtachicago.com) (After July 1, 2006 Pace will be handling all Paratransit services)
  - [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com), Phone: 312.663.HELP (4357), TTY: 312.913.3122
  
- **Improving Public Transportation Options in your Community**
  - **Write letters** to your local, state and federal government representatives
  - **Create a petition** calling for more public transportation – ask as many community members as possible to sign on – and give the petition to your government representatives
  - **To find your elected representatives in state or federal government**, go to FirstGov.gov, the U.S. government's official web portal, at <http://www.firstgov.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml> or e-mail [FirstGov@mail.fedinfo.gov](mailto:FirstGov@mail.fedinfo.gov) or call 1-800-333-4636 (in Illinois, go to <http://www.ilga.gov/> and click on "Legislator Lookup"
  - **Contact APRIL – The Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living** – for more information on its advocacy for rural transportation. **APRIL**, 5903 Powdermill Rd., Kent, Ohio 44240, 330-678-7648 (Voice) & [april-linda@neo.rr.com](mailto:april-linda@neo.rr.com) Website: <http://www.april-rural.org/docs/transport.html>
  - In 2006, **Easter Seals Project ACTION** initiated a project to increase the amount, cost-effectiveness and accessibility of transportation services available in small urban and rural communities for all citizens, including people with disabilities. Information includes a year-long study, titled "**Transportation**

**Services for People with Disabilities in Rural and Small Urban Communities.**" For more information, call 800.659.6428 (voice), 202.347.7385 (TTY), e-mail [project\\_action@easterseals.com](mailto:project_action@easterseals.com) or go to <http://projectaction.easterseals.com/>

- **United We Ride** is an interagency Federal national initiative that supports States and their localities in developing coordinated human service delivery systems. In addition to State coordination grants, United We Ride provides State and local agencies a transportation-coordination and planning self-assessment tool, help along the way, technical assistance, and other resources to help their communities succeed. For more information, go to <http://www.unitedweride.gov/>
- The **Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities** produced a publication, "**Improving Transportation Options for People with Disabilities in Illinois**," – go to <http://www.state.il.us/agency/icdd/online/onlinepublication.htm> or (312) 814-2080(voice) & (888) 261-2717 (TTY.)
  - Call Equip for Equality for Questions about Your Transportation Rights and to receive our materials on Paratransit and public transportation.
- **Discuss Estate Planning for the Family**
  - Discuss your family's options in the area of Special Needs Trusts with an attorney who specializes in this type of law.
    - **The Special Needs Alliance**, or *SNA*, is a national network of lawyers in Disability & Public Benefits Law. Find resources & FAQ's at <http://www.specialneedsalliance.com>, Phone: 1.877.572.8472.
    - The **ARC of Illinois** has information & links to resources at [www.thearcofil.org](http://www.thearcofil.org).
- **Investigate Guardianship & Alternatives, such as Power of Attorney**
  - Family members believe or are often told by professionals that obtaining guardianship is necessary to make decisions for their student with a disability who is turning 18. In some cases, guardianship can be helpful and necessary. However, in many cases it is unnecessary, expensive and ineffective. Rather than help the problem, the legal process can make everyone's life more

complicated.

- Do some research on guardianship and alternatives and what would be best for your student, family and circumstances.
- There are Powers' of Attorney for Healthcare, Finances & Education that can help you balance independence and protection for your student.
  - A new act called the Delegation of Rights to Make Educational Decision allows a student, who is 18 years or older and their own guardian, to delegate their right to make decisions concerning their education to another person on the student's behalf. That person could be the parent(s), another family member or other adult. The student still has a right to raise issues at IEP and transition planning meetings.
- If your student receives Social Security, you can become the Representative Payee to help your student handle the finances and income.
- Request a workshop from Equip for Equality, also check our website under the headings 'Publications' & 'Resource Center' for more information.
- The Illinois Guardianship & Advocacy Commission is an executive state agency created to safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. Site includes FAQ on guardianship & forms to download, including Power of Attorney.
  - <http://gac.state.il.us/>
- **For Males, Register with Selective Service**
  - Almost all male U.S. citizens, and male aliens living in the U.S., who are 18 through 25, are required to register with Selective Service.
  - Go to [www.sss.gov](http://www.sss.gov) to register online
- **Register to Vote!**
  - For more information: [www.equipforequality.org/programs/votingrights](http://www.equipforequality.org/programs/votingrights)
- **Investigate Social Security Benefits** at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)

*Equip for Equality's Training Institute on Disability Rights*

- Contact your Benefits Planner to see how working will affect benefits:
  - In Chicago The Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities can be contacted at:
    - Phone: 312.746.5743, TTY: 312.746.5713
  - Throughout Illinois specialists are assigned by county and to find the right person contact:
    - Illinois Dept. of Human Services (Division of Mental Health)
      - Phone: 866.390.6771, TTY: 312.814.5050
    - OR
    - Illinois Dept. of Human Services (Division of Rehabilitation Services)
      - Phone: 800.807.6962, TTY: 866.444.5013
- Call Equip for Equality's Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Project (PABSS) if you have any questions, problems or concerns
- **PASS (Plan for Achieving Self-Support)** can help provide individuals with the opportunity to get a job & become self-supporting. A PASS plan can be used to pay for almost any expense that will help you reach your occupational objective.
  - Contact Mr. Gillespie, PASS Specialist at
    - Phone: 866.575.4889 or Fax: 312.575.6501.
- **For Students with Developmental Disabilities (DD)**, contact the Independent Service Coordination agency (ISC) to conduct a Pre-Admission Screening
  - The Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) is the starting place to receive appropriate adult services for people with DD
    - This is also the place to sign up for PUNS (see below)
  - [www.dd.illinois.gov](http://www.dd.illinois.gov), Phone: 888.DD.PLANS (English or Spanish), TTY: 866.376.8446

- **Register with PUNS** (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services)
  - It is a statewide database that records information about individuals with developmental disabilities who are potentially in need of services now or within the next five-years. The State uses the data for three main purposes:
    1. Select individuals for services as funding becomes available,
    2. Develop proposals & materials for the State's annual budgeting process, &
    3. Plan for future needs
  
- **Consider future vocational options & alternatives to sheltered workshops & day activity programs:**
  - Competitive employment
  - Supported employment
  - Self-employment—own their own business
  - Job coaches
  - Parent owned work co-ops
  - Volunteer opportunities
  
- Your student will work with the vocational team, including the Division of Rehabilitation Services, (you can request they be at transition planning meetings) for vocational training & placement.
  - To look into career, business & self-employment options:
    - Small Business & Self-Employment Service, Office of Disability Employment Policy of the U.S. Department of Labor (part of the Job Accommodation Network) at <http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu/sbses>, Phone: 800.526.7234, TTY: 877.781.9403
    - disabilityworks: Aims to Increase Economic Opportunities for People with Disabilities in the state of Illinois at [www.disabilityworks.org](http://www.disabilityworks.org)
    - Illinois Work Net- information for individuals seeking careers & employers at [www.illinoisworknet.com](http://www.illinoisworknet.com)
    - We Grow Dreams is a not-for-profit created to provide training & employment opportunity for people with disabilities through the co-op of greenhouses & garden centers. Contact at [www.wegrowdreams.org](http://www.wegrowdreams.org), Phone: 630.293.0100

- **Continuing education** at community, state & private colleges, & other adult learning programs.
  - Many high school districts are working with community colleges to develop 18-21+ year old programs to support the transition from high school to the adult world. They are often housed within the community college. Check what is available within your district & within Illinois.
  - Students with disabilities have a right to academic help & accommodations in post-secondary education, but your responsibilities are different after high school.
    - If you need help don't wait, put your request in writing following the rules in your student handbook, admission office or website.
    - Contact the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights at [www.ed.gov/ocr](http://www.ed.gov/ocr), Phone: 800.421.3481, TTY: 877.521.2172.
  - In the past, students with cognitive disabilities have not had many opportunities to go to college. This is changing as new programs are being created so these students can enjoy the benefits of postsecondary education.
  - Information & links:
    - [www.thinkcollege.net](http://www.thinkcollege.net)
    - [www.advocacyinstitute.org](http://www.advocacyinstitute.org)
  - Examples of post-secondary programs for students with cognitive disabilities in Illinois:

Lewis & Clark Community College, Godfrey (by St. Louis): College for Life (continuing ed) & Supported,  
<http://www.lc.edu/Web.nsf/BrochureApril2006withSCTCFLSLN.pdf>,  
Barbara Cadle - Division Assistant, Caldwell Hall, Room 2320, Phone: 618 468-4211, FAX: 618 468-7257, E-mail: [bcadle@lc.edu](mailto:bcadle@lc.edu)

Chicago Community Colleges: College Connection to Career Development

Opportunities for Minority Young Adults with Disabilities, 2 year inclusive, individual supported, Dr. Fabricio Balcazar, Phone: 312-413-1646, E-mail: fabricio@uic.edu

Elmhurst College--Elmhurst Life Skills Academy (ELSA), 4 year program-separate from general program, Nancy A. Cheeseman, M.A., LPC, Phone: 630-617-3752, E-mail: [nancych@elmhurst.edu](mailto:nancych@elmhurst.edu), <http://www.elmhurst.edu/elsa>

NATIONAL-LOUIS UNIVERSITY, Skokie: The PACE Program, inclusive 2 year, non-degree program for young adults with multiple learning disabilities. [http://www.nl.edu/academics/PACE/pace\\_application.cfm](http://www.nl.edu/academics/PACE/pace_application.cfm), Phone: 800.443.5522, ext. 2670, FAX; 847.256.5190, email: [cburns@nl.edu](mailto:cburns@nl.edu)  
Director: Carol J Burns, M.Ed., 224-233-2671 ext2671

College of Dupage: 18-21 year old program for high school students enrolled in Naperville school district, emphasis on Vocational Skills & Community Job Experiences

Office of Vocational Training & Development, Harold Washington College, Chicago, Vocational Training, at Phone: 312.553.5810, Fax: 312.553.5815. [www.haroldwashingtoncollege.edu](http://www.haroldwashingtoncollege.edu)

Southern Illinois University Evaluation & Development Center, Carbondale  
500 C Lewis Lane, Carbondale, 62901, Phone: 618.453.2331

- **Affordable, accessible, community housing** is a cornerstone to independence. Since there are more people looking for independent living programs than slots, getting on waiting lists early and thinking 'out of the box' is important. Some resources include:
  - **Housing Action Illinois**
    - [www.housingactionil.org](http://www.housingactionil.org)
  - Statewide Living Council of Illinois: Home Ownership Coalition
    - [www.silcofillinois.org/hoc\\_main.htm](http://www.silcofillinois.org/hoc_main.htm)
  - Greater Chicago Housing and Community Development Website

- [www.chicagoareahousing.org/HousingHomePage.asp](http://www.chicagoareahousing.org/HousingHomePage.asp)
- IllinoisLegalAid Disability Guidebook: Housing Overview
  - [http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp\\_content&contentID=176](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=home.dsp_content&contentID=176)
- Access Living is a cross-disability organization governed & staffed by a majority of people with disabilities.
  - Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, 115 West Chicago Avenue Chicago, IL 60610, Phone: 800.613.8549, TTY: 888.253.7003, [www.accessliving.org/Housing.htm](http://www.accessliving.org/Housing.htm)
  - Fair Housing Accessibility First at [www.fairhousingfirst.org](http://www.fairhousingfirst.org)
- **Think about community-based Recreation & Leisure activities beyond high school**
  - What clubs, groups, teams, volunteer opportunities & classes are young adults joining in your neighborhood? What does your student like to do? Special Recreation is only one option.
  - **Community Recreation for People with Disabilities: Strategies for Inclusion**; by Stuart J. Schleien, M. Tipton Ray, Frederick P. Green; Brookes Publishing Company; 2nd edition (January 1997).
  - **National Center on Accessibility**: Recreation, Parks, Tourism; [www.ncaonline.org](http://www.ncaonline.org).
  - **Volunteering by People with Disabilities: A Route to Opportunity**; by Filiz Niyazi
  - **VSA Arts** is an international non profit founded to create a world where all people with disabilities learn through, participate in & enjoy the arts:
    - [www.vsarts.org/x11.xml](http://www.vsarts.org/x11.xml)
    - VSA Arts, 818 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 600, Washington, D.C. 20006, Phone: 800.933.8721, TDD: 202.737.0645
    - Job Accommodation Network: Recreation, Sports & The Arts <http://www.jan.wvu.edu/links/disres.htm#Rec>



- Investigate the help that can be offered by **Assistive Technology (AT)**.
  - An AT evaluation can offer the student recommendations in the areas of augmentative communication, mobility, controlling the environment, recreation, computer access, etc.
  - For more information & contact links go to:

[www.equipforequality.org/programs/assistivetechonology/resources.php](http://www.equipforequality.org/programs/assistivetechonology/resources.php)

### **AT Resources**

Illinois Assistive Technology Project IATP is a state-wide non-profit agency that provides information & assistance, an AT device loan program, a low interest cash loan program, & AT trainings. [www.iltech.org](http://www.iltech.org), Phone/TTY in IL: 800.852.5110.

Infinitec. Infinitec helps people with disabilities find & get access to technology services, training, assistive equipment, information, & specialists. Serves the counties of Cook, DuPage, Lake & Kane in Illinois. [www.infinitec.org](http://www.infinitec.org)

United Cerebral Palsy Association. UCP is a national organization dedicated to the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all aspects of society. [www.ucp.org](http://www.ucp.org)

### **Medicaid & Medicare**

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. The federal agency within the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services responsible for Medicare & Medicaid programs. [www.cms.hhs.gov](http://www.cms.hhs.gov)

### **Special Education**

Computer Banc. Computer Banc is a non-profit organization based in Springfield, IL that gives away refurbished computers for children with learning challenges who come from homes with limited income. [www.computerbanc.info](http://www.computerbanc.info), Phone: 217.528.9506, e-mail: [connect4kids@computerbanc.info](mailto:connect4kids@computerbanc.info)

### **Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment**

Job Accommodation Network (JAN). JAN provides information on accommodations in educational & employment settings. <http://janweb.icdi.wvu.edu>  
Phone: 800.526.7234; TTY: 877.781.9403.

Illinois Department of Human Services - Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS).

DRS is the state agency that provides vocational rehabilitation services to people with disabilities in Illinois. [www.dhs.state.il.us/ors](http://www.dhs.state.il.us/ors), Phone: 800.843.6154, TTY: 800.447.6404, To refer someone for services online: <https://drs.state.il.us/owr>

## **General Legal Information**

- Check out **[www.illinoislegalaid.org](http://www.illinoislegalaid.org)** where you can search by topic & get information & resources on disability related (and other consumer) legal issues.

## **NOTES & TO DO LIST**

  
  
  
  
  
  

## **DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?**

Contact Equip for Equality's Special Education Clinic Helpline

**1-866-KIDS-046** (voice) or 800-610-02779 (TTY)

[SpecialED@equipforequality.org](mailto:SpecialED@equipforequality.org)

[www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org)

This resource material is intended as a guide for people with disabilities. Nothing written here shall be understood to be legal advice. For specific legal advice, an attorney should be consulted.

Equip for Equality, an independent nonprofit organization, is the Illinois state Protection & Advocacy System whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities. The Special Education Helpline seeks to empower parents to advocate effectively. The Special Education Clinic, Helpline, and these publications were made possible by grants from the Chicago Bar Foundation, The Field Foundation, Illinois Bar Foundation, Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, Polk Bros Foundation, and the State of Illinois Department of Human Services. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not represent the official views of the grantors.

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