



## Transition Information: Hawaii

### **Timeline**

- *By the age of 14:*
  - By 14, the IEP needs to include a statement of the transition service needs of the student and prospective coursework, including higher education possibilities and employment opportunities.
- *By the age of 16:*
  - By 16, the IEP needs to include a statement of needed transition services for the student with the associated agencies that will be helping the student achieve his/her IEP goals.
- *At the age of 17:*
  - The guardianship/conservatorship process should begin. (The age of majority in Hawaii is 18)
    - The student must be informed of this transfer of rights by age 17, and a statement of consent should be placed in the IEP.
    - If families and students feel uncomfortable with the transfer of the decision-making abilities to the student, the prospective guardian needs to petition for guardianship at the local probate court.
  - The individual must be assessed by a doctor that will state that they are not able to make decisions which is presented during a court hearing. This process should begin well before the student's 18<sup>th</sup>, since it at least takes four months to complete.
  - The vocational rehabilitation process should begin at least 2 years prior to high school graduation.
- *Before the age of 18:*
  - Apply for Social Security benefits, Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid.
    - If ineligible for Medicaid, look into other health insurance options, as it is likely the individual will no longer be covered by the parents plan after age 19 if not enrolled in college or covered by Medicaid.
  - Add your name to the waiting list for residential placements in the state. Regardless of future residential plans, it is good to be on the waitlist, as these lists can be extremely long, and it is easy to remove your name than it is to add it.
- *At age 18:*
  - Register to vote.
  - Upon an individual's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he or she changes from a system of being entitled to certain rights and privileges to a system of eligibility.
  - Male students should register for the draft, no matter the level of functioning.
  - If applicable, individuals should apply to adult agencies for vocational and day programs, as well as for supported living.

## **Starting the Transition Process:**

The IEP must be started well before the student's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. By that point, it must include projected dates for prospective services, prospective coursework and vocational activities, and also other assessments and evaluations.

IEP meetings should be held annually to discuss possible changes to the IEP depending on the student's changing interests and desires.

By 14, the IEP needs to include a statement of the transition service needs of the student and prospective coursework, including higher education possibilities and employment opportunities. By 16, the IEP needs to include a statement of needed transition services for the student with the associated agencies that will be helping the student achieve his/her IEP goals.

## **Education:**

There is a variety of post-secondary outcomes available for students after they choose to leave school. This includes continuing on with high school-level courses or pursuing another form of higher education, which is agreed upon by the IEP team and the educational system. Also, after completing vocational training, which must be indicated in an individual's IEP, the student can also pursue a path towards employment.

Hawaii does set its own requirements for graduation and LEAs cannot change those requirements based on the individuals' needs. The options for diplomas are: an honors diploma, a standard high school diploma or a certificate of attendance. Allowances are made to disabled students in helping them achieve the diploma in the form of extensions on requirements. There is no state exam that the students need to pass to get a high school diploma.

## **Guardianship:**

The age of majority in Hawaii is 18 years old, which means that all rights will be transferred to the individual upon their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. This includes rights regarding education and personal matters.

However, if the individual is considered to be incapable of making those decisions about his/her affairs, the guardianship can be legally-approved by a state family court. The individual must be assessed by a doctor. An assessment must be presented during a court hearing that states that the individual is not able to make decisions on his or her own. This process should begin well before the student's 18<sup>th</sup>, since it at least takes four months to complete. It is best to start this process at approximately the student's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and also have the guardianship and transfer of rights indicated on their IEP.

Hawaii Family Courts: [www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/family/family\\_courts.html](http://www.courts.state.hi.us/courts/family/family_courts.html)

## **Vocational Rehabilitation:**

Vocational Rehabilitation is a state-federal program for individuals with disabilities who require assistance to prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. They have various resources available regarding vocational rehabilitation services for people with autism. This process should begin before the individual turns 18, or as mentioned on the student's IEP transition plan. An individual can apply for services at their local VR office.

## **Social Security:**

Benefits should be applied for before the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and then be re-evaluated after the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. It is also important that the office be contacted well in advance before the student's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to understand that eligibility and application process.

Applicants may apply online or by contacting Social Security directly. Local Social Security offices can be found using SSA's office locator or by calling 800-772-1213.

- *Social Security Administration:* [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov)
- *Social Security Benefit Application:* [www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityonline](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityonline)
- *Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities:* [www.ssa.gov/disability](http://www.ssa.gov/disability)
- *Social Security Office Locator:* <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

## **Housing Resources:**

Hawaii Public Housing Agency Contact Information:

[www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/hi.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/hi.cfm)

US Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD in Hawaii

<http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/states/hawaii>

Disability.gov Guide to Housing:

[www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-housing](http://www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-housing)

## Hawaii Resources

### **State Department of Education: Special Education**

Student Support Services Branch

(808) 733-4400

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/SpecializedPrograms/SpecialEducation>

IEP Information:

<http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/SpecializedPrograms/SpecialEducation/Pages/IEP.aspx>

### **Hawaii Transition Planning Workbook:**

<http://health.hawaii.gov/cshcn/files/2013/05/transitionplanningworkbook1.pdf>

### **Hawaii Vocational Rehabilitation**

Voice or TDD: (808) 586-9744

Fax: (808) 586-9755

<http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/vocationalrehab/>

Find your local branch: <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/DVR-Chart-good.pdf>

### **Comprehensive Student Support Services Sections (CSSSS)**

Hawaii State Department of Education

(808) 305-9787

[www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/PersonalizedLearning/Pages/home.aspx](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org/TeachingAndLearning/StudentLearning/PersonalizedLearning/Pages/home.aspx)

### **Developmental Disabilities Division**

State of Hawaii Department of Health

(808) 586-4400

<http://health.hawaii.gov/ddd/>