

## Transition Information: Idaho

### **Timeline**

- *At the age of 14:*
  - Transition planning should begin.
- *By the age of 16:*
  - By 16 years old, the IEP should include current levels of educational performance assessed annually, post-secondary goals regarding employment, training and education, a prospective course of study, and a graduation plan, including the specified graduation requirements for that program.
- *Before the age of 17:*
  - The guardianship/conservatorship process should begin. The age of majority in Idaho is 18.
  - The student and the parents must be informed of this transfer of rights by the student's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and a statement regarding their knowledge of that transfer must be included 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 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.
  - A referral form needs to be completed which can be found on the Idaho division of vocational rehabilitation website before the student is 18 years old.
- *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.
- *At age 21:*
  - Unless specified, all services will be discontinued at the age of 21.

## **Starting the Transition:**

The first IEP must go into effect by the age of 16, which means that transition planning should occur as early as 14 years old. By 16 years old, the IEP should include current levels of educational performance assessed annually, post-secondary goals regarding employment, training and education, a prospective course of study, and a graduation plan, including the specified graduation requirements for that program. This would also include prospective coursework for higher education, including in high school. An individual's needs, interests and strengths should be taken into account when determining the transition plan, which is why the student should be as involved as possible in making decisions about their future. There will be IEP reviews annually that discuss any changes in the information about the student and their interests and any additional goals that are agreed upon by the IEP team.

## **Education:**

The state does provide minimum requirements concerning graduation, but the LEAs can change them if needed. The student has the option of either getting the regular standard diploma or a diploma that is developed by the LEA. Allowances in terms of graduation requirements are mentioned in the IEP of each individual. Extensions are often given to disabled students so that they can complete their requirements with more time. Disabled students are exempt from the exit exam generally required for students to graduate from high school. However, if the student chooses to take that exam, he or she will receive the same test and be required to have the same passing score as a student without disabilities. If an individual fails the exam, he or she can petition for an exemption, use another procedure to meet the requirement or retake the exam one more time.

## **Guardianship:**

The age of majority in Idaho is 18 years old, which means all decision-making rights are transferred to the individual upon his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The student and the parents must be informed of this transfer of rights by the student's 17<sup>th</sup> birthday and a statement regarding their knowledge of that transfer must be included in the IEP. If the student will have a guardian after his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, the IEP must also include that information as well.

Conservators or guardians can be appointed by the court if an individual is viewed as incapable of making his or her own decisions by a medical professional. The court has the power to specify any terms and the nature of the guardianship.

If full guardianship is not desired, there are provisions for limited guardianship. The powers of the limited guardian are detailed in a letter. This allows the individual to retain some independence. There are also guardianship options that are specific to

making financial decisions and medical decisions. There is a co-guardianship option, which means that if the individual feels uncomfortable making certain decisions, he or she can allow the co-guardian to help make the right decision.

*Alternatives to DD Guardianship in Idaho:*

<http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/portals/0/Medical/MoreInformation/Alternatives%20to%20Guardianship%206-06.doc>

*Idaho Coordinated Family Court Services:* [www.isc.idaho.gov/family-court/fc-home](http://www.isc.idaho.gov/family-court/fc-home)

## **Vocational Rehabilitation:**

VR is a state-federal program whose goal is to assist people with disabilities prepare for, secure, retain or regain employment. To find a local office or schedule a meeting with a VR counselor: go to [www.vr.idaho.gov/offices.shtml](http://www.vr.idaho.gov/offices.shtml)

A referral form needs to be completed which can be found on the Idaho division of vocational rehabilitation website before the student is 18 years old. It can happen prior to that to prepare the student for post-secondary outcomes.

## **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:**

Idaho Public Housing Agency Contact Information:

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

US Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD in Idaho

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

Disability.gov Guide to Housing:

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

## Other Idaho Resources

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

Bureau of Special Population Services

Idaho Department of Education

(208) 332-6800

[www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special\\_edu](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu)

### **State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency**

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

(208) 334-3390 (V/TTY)

[www.vr.idaho.gov](http://www.vr.idaho.gov)

### **Idaho Division Professional-Technical Education**

(208) 334-3216

Fax: (208) 334-2365 [www.pte.idaho.gov](http://www.pte.idaho.gov)

### **Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities**

(208) 334-2178 or 1-800-544-2433

Fax: (208) 334-3417

[info@icdd.idaho.gov](mailto:info@icdd.idaho.gov)

[www.icdd.idaho.gov](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov)

**Moving On: Idaho Transition Binder:** *A tool for students and families to plan and get organized as students prepare to leave high school and move into the adult world*

[www.icdd.idaho.gov/pdf/Publications/Moving%20On%20Binder%202013%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.icdd.idaho.gov/pdf/Publications/Moving%20On%20Binder%202013%20FINAL.pdf)

### **Idaho Parent's Unlimited, Inc: Transition to Adulthood:**

[www.ipulidaho.org/transition](http://www.ipulidaho.org/transition)

### **Idaho Autism: A Resource Guide with a Purpose:**

[www.idahoautism.com](http://www.idahoautism.com)