



Transition Information: Kansas

Timeline

- *By the age of 14:*
 - The transition process should begin by age 14 and information about the student's needs during the transition process should be included in the IEP during that process.
 - A transition team should be created by the age of 14 that involves the parents, two teachers of the student (regular and special education), a school representative, any other individuals who do or will provide services to the individual and the student.
- *By the age of 16:*
 - By 16, the IEP must include a coordinated set of services designed specifically to transition students from school to post-school outcomes.
 - The IEP must include a statement of needed transition services and any external agency involvement.
 - The individual's post-secondary outcomes and decisions about future education and graduation options must be decided upon and include in the IEP by the time the student turns 16 years old.
- *Before the age of 17:*
 - The guardianship/conservatorship process should begin.
 - The age of majority in Kansas is 18 years old. By age 17, the student must be informed that their rights will be transferred from their parents to themselves at the age of 18. Thus, a statement that that information has been relayed to the individual and they are accepting of that fact must be included in the IEP by their 17th birthday.
 - 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.
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- *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 18th 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 transition process should begin by age 14 and information about the student's needs during the transition process should be included in the IEP during that process. By 16, the IEP must include a coordinated set of services designed specifically to transition students from school to post-school outcomes. The IEP must include a statement of needed transition services and any external agency involvement. The Kansas definition of an IEP says that the transition IEP should be a part of the general IEP, and not a separate plan. It should be coordinated in accordance with the related services discussed in the general IEP of the student. However, it should be specific to post-secondary goals and should be geared towards preparation for the future and goals for future that are relevant to the individual's strengths and interests.

The student should be prepared for the IEP meeting and should participate in the meeting. These meetings occur annually and the preparation for this meeting is helpful in teaching the student about self-determination. A transition team should be created by the age of 14 that involves the parents, two teachers of the student (regular and special education), a school representative, any other individuals who do or will provide services to the individual and the student.

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Education:

While Personalized Plans of Study are not required for students above 8th grade, if schools are using PPS after the child turns 14 years old, the IEP and the PPS should be one in the same for students with disabilities and the PPS should agree with the IEP developmental scheme. The PPS includes assessments of the student's abilities, their career goals and intended vocational training, a 6-year educational program that is based upon the Kansas Career Clusters Model and Programs of Study and any information that will help create the student's resume.

The individual's post-secondary outcomes and decisions about future education and graduation options must be decided upon and include in the IEP by the time the student turns 16 years old. Prospective coursework can be organized in accordance with the Kansas Career Clusters Model. All courses must also be taken in accordance with the student's assessments in different areas of understanding.

The Kansas Department of Education does have minimum requirements for graduation, but LEAs can add to them if they feel that it is appropriate. Kansas offers either a regular standard high school diploma or a local certificate of attendance that is not state-endorsed. Kansas gives disabled students certain allowances to get their diplomas, including taking alternate courses that count for the required course credits, lowering the performance criteria, giving extensions

for getting their required credits, and other allowances that are specified on the individual's IEP. Kansas does not have a state exit exam that students are required to take to graduate.

Guardianship:

The age of majority in Kansas is 18 years old. This means that at the age of 18, the student will receive all the rights from their previous guardians (e.g parents) to all decisions pertaining to their well-being. They must be informed of that transfer before their 17th birthday and must provide consent within their IEP, claiming that they understand their rights and the imminent transfer.

If the individual or their family feels that the disability obstructs the individual's ability to make important decisions, the local court will appoint someone to become his or her guardian after the individual turns 18. However, guardianship and conservatorship are public trusts which mean that the state will place severe restrictions on both the disabled individual and the guardian as to what they can and cannot do. It is a very strict, lengthy and expensive process.

This is a continuum of interventions in order of least restrictive (informal support) to most restrictive (full guardianship) from *Kansas Economic Employment and Support Manual* (<http://content.dcf.ks.gov/EES/KEESM/Keesm.htm>)

1. Informal community intervention including family, friends, financial assistance (bill paying, etc) from banks or other;
2. Formal community intervention – Home and Community Based Services, Home Health Care or if the adult has capacity and there is an appropriate option – a power of attorney and/or a power of attorney for care decisions;
3. Social Security Payee;
4. Voluntary conservatorship;
5. Temporary Guardianship and/or Temporary Conservatorship;
6. Full Guardianship and/or Conservatorship with a plan;
7. Full Guardianship and/or Conservatorship;
8. Full Guardianship and Conservatorship with placement in a treatment facility or nursing facility.

A Guide to Kansas Laws on Guardianship and Conservatorship:
www.ksgprog.org/Publications/Guide%20to%20KS%20Law.pdf

Kansas District Courts: www.kscourts.org/kansas-courts/district-courts

Vocational Rehabilitation:

Vocational rehabilitation services help Kansas citizens with disabilities find employment. The services provided are customized according to each person's unique needs, skills, interests and abilities.

This department has a variety of programs beyond vocational training. Their programs include services for addictions, for children and family services, community support, child support, and mental health services.

To find your local Vocational Rehabilitation Contact, go to:

www.dcf.ks.gov/services/Pages/MapVR.aspx

Social Security:

Benefits should be applied for before the student's 18th birthday and then be re-evaluated after the student's 18th birthday. It is also important that the office be contacted well in advance before the student's 18th 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
- *Social Security Benefit Application:* www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityonline
- *Social Security Benefits for People with Disabilities:* www.ssa.gov/disability
- *Social Security Office Locator:* <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>

Housing Resources:

Kansas Public Housing Agency Contact Information:

www.hud.gov/offices/pih/pha/contacts/states/ks.cfm

US Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD in Kansas

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

Disability.gov Guide to Housing:

www.disability.gov/resource/disability-govs-guide-housing

Kansas Resources

Kansas Special Education Services

Phone: (800) 203-9462

Fax: (785) 296-6715

www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/EarlyChildhoodSpecialEducationandTitleServices/SpecialEducation.aspx

Parent's Guide to Special Education in Kansas:

www.ksde.org/Portals/0/SES/pubs/spedguide.pdf

Transition Coalition

University of Kansas

(785) 864-0686

transitioncoalition.org

Kansas Career & Technical Education

Kansas State Department of Education

[www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/CSASHome/CareerTechnicalEducation\(CTE\).aspx](http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/CareerStandardsandAssessmentServices/CSASHome/CareerTechnicalEducation(CTE).aspx)

Kansas Rehabilitation Services

Department for Children and Families

(866) 213-9079

www.dcf.ks.gov/services/RS

Vocational Rehabilitation Services: www.dcf.ks.gov/services/RS/Pages/Employment-Services.aspx

Find your local VR office: www.dcf.ks.gov/services/Pages/MapVR.aspx

Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

(785) 296-2608

www.kcdd.org