

Transition Information: Nevada

Timeline

- *By the age of 14:*
 - The transition section of the IEP should be started by at the latest the student's 14th birthday. It should include information related to the student's post-secondary goals and the services that will help the student achieve those goals.
- *By the age of 16:*
 - A completed transition portion of the IEP must go into effect by the student's 16th birthday.
 - If other agencies are to be involved, they should start participating in the annual IEP meetings where goals are revised depending on the progress of the student. Students should also be involved in the IEP process and decide what they want out of their futures.
- *Before the age of 17:*
 - The guardianship/conservatorship process should begin. (The age of majority in Nevada is 18)
 - The student and his or her family should be notified of the transfer of decision-making rights to the individual by the student's 17th birthday. If necessary, the family should begin the guardianship process by filing a petition with their local probate court.
 - A signed consent of the understanding of that transfer can be included in the student's IEP to acknowledge that the family and the student have been notified in advance of the imminent switch of control.
 - Contact your local Vocational Rehabilitation office to apply for services.
- *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.
- *At the age of 21:*
 - Services in the special education program will terminate in Nevada at the age of 21.

Starting the Transition Process:

A completed transition portion of the IEP must go into effect by the student's 16th birthday. Therefore, it might be best if that section of the IEP is started by at the latest the student's 14th birthday. It should include information related to the student's post-secondary goals and the services that will help the student achieve those goals. If other agencies are to be involved, they should participate in the annual IEP meetings where goals are revised depending on the progress of the student. Students should also be involved in the IEP process and decide what they want out of their futures. If they cannot be present at the meetings, someone should advocate for their needs and preferences. There should be an assessment to help decide what the most appropriate plan for the student is in terms of employment, future education, living situations, and graduation from secondary school.

Education:

Information about prospective coursework that will be taken during high school and beyond should be included in the IEP so that schools can create a personalized curriculum for the student. Individuals should consider college and post-secondary education as an option when formulating their post-secondary goals. Also, a graduation plan and any alterations to the student's requirements for that graduation plan should be included and detailed in the IEP.

Services in the special education program will terminate in Nevada at the age of 21. Therefore, it is important to complete all requirements and fulfill IEP goals prior to that so that students can obtain some kind of acknowledgement of completion. Nevada provides a set of minimum requirements for graduation, which LEAs can add to if they believe that the requirements are appropriate.

The diploma options within the state of Nevada are: an honors diploma, a standard high school diploma, an IEP or special education diploma, or a certificate of attendance. Any allowances for those requirements must be addressed individually in the IEP and approved. Nevada does require all students to complete a state exit exam to receive a standard diploma. They administer the same test to all students and require the same passing score for all students. There are no listed options for the student if they fail the exam.

Guardianship/Conservatorship:

The age of majority in Nevada is 18 years old. At this age, all rights to make life-related decisions will be transferred to the student his or her family or legal guardian. This includes decisions related to living situations, finances, and medical issues. The student and his or her family should be notified of this transfer by the student's 17th birthday. A

signed consent of the understanding of that transfer can be included in the student's IEP to acknowledge that the family and the student have been notified in advance of the imminent switch of control.

If the family feels that the person is incapable of making those kinds of responsible decisions, it is possible to petition to the local district court about guardianship over the individual. The guardianship must be approved well before the student's 18th birthday. It might be helpful to even begin the guardianship legal process by the student's 17th birthday. Once the petition has been filed it is important to provide all the required information within 120 days of being appointed as the student's legal guardian. There is a hearing that takes place and it is helpful to have attorneys representing both sides: the prospective guardian and the individual.

Other forms of guardianship include temporary guardianships, limited guardianships, and conservatorships. The court will specify the requirements and the powers of each of those guardianships and the stipulations under which the arrangement can be terminated.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation's (DETR) Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation is a state and federally funded program designed to help people with disabilities become employed and to help those already employed perform more successfully through training, counseling and other support methods. The Bureau of VR has services related to the assessment of the student's current skill set, identification of possible employment options, instruction in job search and job maintenance, and also development of independent living skills. Vocational rehabilitation programs provide many services including training and transition services. They can also train students in using assistive or rehabilitation technology.

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation generally begins to accept referrals during the last semester of the individual's junior year, and confirms eligibility during his or her senior year.

You can find the contact information for your local VR office at <http://detr.state.nv.us/Rehab%20Pages/rehab%20locations.htm>.

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:

Nevada Public Housing Agency Contact Information:

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

US Department of Housing and Urban Development: HUD in Nevada

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

Disability.gov Guide to Housing:

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

Nevada Resources

Nevada Office of Special Education

Department of Education

(775) 687-9142

[www.doe.nv.gov/Office of Special Education](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Office_of_Special_Education)

Nevada IEP Guidelines: [www.doe.nv.gov/Special Education/Docs Forms/IEP Guidelines](http://www.doe.nv.gov/Special_Education/Docs_Forms/IEP_Guidelines)

Nevada Vocational Rehabilitation Bureau

Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation

Southern NV: (702) 486-5230

Northern NV: (775) 687-6860

[http://detr.state.nv.us/Rehab Pages/voc rehab.htm](http://detr.state.nv.us/Rehab_Pages/voc_rehab.htm)

Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning & Education Options

Nevada Department of Education

<http://cteae.nv.gov/>

Career and Technical Education:

[http://cteae.nv.gov/Career and Technical Education/Career and Technical Education](http://cteae.nv.gov/Career_and_Technical_Education/Career_and_Technical_Education)

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Division of Public and Behavioral Health

Nevada Department of Health and Human Services

(775) 684-4200

<http://dpbh.nv.gov>