

Middletown City Schools

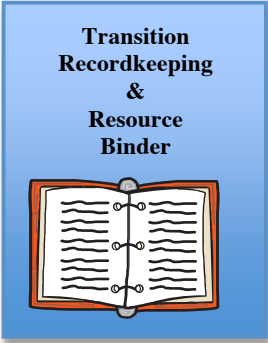
Parent Mentor Program



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Fall 2009

October Transition Forum: Taming the Paperwork Monster



Tired of searching for all those important papers only to find you threw some away! Find out what documents and information are important and better yet, have a place to store them. On Tuesday, October 20 you are invited to a make-it/ take-it for parents and students. We will create your very own Transition Recordkeeping and Resource Binder. From medical to school records, agency and college information, reference letters and resume...it has it all! Resource materials are provided and you are encouraged to bring your documents (IEP, medical information, copy of social security card, birth certificate, etc.). Students and parents can begin to use the binders in 9th grade (or anytime) and continue to fill them up until graduation. Upon graduation you should have everything you need to move on to college, work and independent living.

Everything is free! Light refreshments will be served and you will leave with your very own Transition Binder (valued at \$20). For more information call Linda at 420-4620 or Deanna at 420-4500, ext. 3160. Please plan to join us!

What: A Make it/Take-It: Transition Recordkeeping and Resource Binder

**When: Tuesday, October 20
5:30- 7:30 p.m.**

**Where: Middletown High School
Media Center**

Making sure our teenagers are ready for life after high school is no easy task. The good news is students with disabilities can attend school until the age of 22. This gives us extra time to prepare. That is why a plan is so important. It should map out very specifically what needs to happen and when. This is called a transition plan and is a big part of the IEP (Individual Education Program). If you are receiving this newsletter it means your son or daughter is on an IEP. Below are the timelines for transition (what happens, when).

Student Age	Action Needed
Age 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement of transition needs that focuses on your child's course of study (college or vocational training). <p>Hint: This is when you look at the individual courses your child is taking and make sure they support his/her future goal of college, training or work. Request a copy of the Yearly Program of Studies Course Description, which lists the graduation requirements, and a description of the courses that are taught. Even though your child is only 14, decisions are being made now which will affect whether he/she will have the necessary courses to go to college.</p>

Age 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition planning (focus on interagency responsibility or needed linkages including MRDD, BVR, SSA, etc.) • Identify when student will leave school (can attend through age 21) • Identify job interest and abilities • Include activities such as career exploration, job sampling and some job training • Begin to identify community services that provide job training and placement • Begin application to adult service agencies • Consider summer employment or volunteer experience • If college bound, take PSAT and plan for test accommodations if needed • Consider AP classes and review class schedule with guidance counselor • Develop an understanding of own disability and learning style • Practice self advocacy skills, co-lead IEP meeting if appropriate <p>Hint: <i>This is the time a transition team is formed and a formal transition plan is written that includes goals and activities to support moving on to college, employment and independent living. Information will be gathered (i.e. assessments) that let teams know what your teenager can do and what further work needs to be done. All of these will be included on the transition page of the IEP.</i></p>
16-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Adult Services Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colleges, vocational or technical schools • Social Security Administration, Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation, Butler County Board of Developmental Disabilities or Butler County Mental Health Board • Residential or independent living services • Recreation/Leisure groups • Medical Services • Identify graduation date (may remain in school through age 21) • Begin formalized vocational assessments (to clarify what type of work you are best suited for) <p>Hint: <i>For a list of adult contact services, programs and groups including contact names and phone numbers call the parent mentor office.</i></p>
17-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin to consider and research guardianship • Continue to review and update transition plan • Take ACT, SAT tests • Visit colleges and disability services office • Register with Disability Service Office of your preferred college by the end of Senior year • Pursue college scholarships, grants. etc. • Review eligibility of medical insurance due to age <p>Hint: <i>Remember at age 18 your teenager is considered an adult. This means your teenager makes their own decisions and can sign all contracts including cell phone, credit cards, etc. If parents feel their teenager is not capable of these decisions, they can pursue guardianship, which is a legal process in which your child is ruled incompetent. A guardian is appointed by the courts to handle their affairs.</i></p>
18-21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish health benefits if needed • At age 18, males will need to register for Selective Service (mandatory registration, forms available at your local post office) • Check local taxation code for any yearly filings that will need to be done (ex. Middletown income tax is filed by each individual) • Continue to update and review Transition Plan • Develop long term financial support plan (ex. SSI) if needed

Please call the Parent Mentor Office (420-4620) for additional information or check the web site:
www.middletownparentmentor.com