

Transition to Adulthood Timeline (Age 14-22)

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AGE 14

1. Develop a **post-secondary vision statement** with your adolescent (*and update yearly*).
2. Ensure the school completes appropriate **transition assessments**.
3. Request a **transition planning meeting** to start the **Transition Planning Form (TPF)** (*and update yearly*).
4. Your adolescent should be invited to **attend their IEP meetings**.
5. Findings of the transition assessments and TPF should be integrated into the **IEP goals and services**.
6. Invite any involved **state agencies** to IEP meetings e.g., DDS, DMH & MassAbility.
7. Explore developmentally appropriate inclusive and/or adaptive **social/recreational opportunities** in the community.
8. Discuss **Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS)** with the school.
9. Identify opportunities for learning **independent living and vocational skills** in the home and community.
10. Provide your adolescent's PCP and developmental specialist with an updated IEP copy.

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AGE 16

1. Consider your adolescent's decision-making abilities across life domains e.g. financial, legal & medical. Explore skill development opportunities in these life domains. Discuss **decision-making support options** with their school and doctors.
2. Discuss with the school the planned **graduation date** and update on the IEP. Discuss options for remaining in special education until age 22.
3. Ensure the school places a **Chapter 688 referral** to the appropriate adult agency (*e.g., DDS, DMH or MassAbility*) at least 2 years before graduation.
4. Discuss options for college programs with the school (*if applying*). Ensure **college preparation skills** are taught at school.

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AGE 17

1. Adolescent selects an **educational decision-making** category for when they turn age 18 i.e., shared, delegated or individual decision-making. This is updated on the IEP.
2. Attain **copies of medical and educational paperwork** e.g., original diagnostic report, school testing (*including psychological testing*) and IEP needed for adult service applications i.e., DDS and/or guardianship.
3. Apply for **adult eligibility at state agencies** for individuals with disabilities e.g., DDS & MassAbility.
4. If applying for **guardianship**, establish a team to complete the medical paperwork i.e., psychologist, social worker, and physician OR only a physician. (*Ask PCP or developmental specialist which paperwork is needed.*) Seek legal support.
5. If you have **MassHealth** confirm if a new application is needed at age 18 to continue to be enrolled in MassHealth.

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AGE 18

1. If the adolescent is a male US citizen, **register for the Selective Service (the draft)**.
2. Apply for **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** adult eligibility. Re-apply if connected as a child to continue receiving SSI benefits in adulthood.
3. There is a **legal transfer of rights** at the **age of majority** i.e., age 18. If considering independent housing in the future, **apply for housing vouchers**. Wait lists can be years long.
4. **Medical Transfer:** discuss with PCP and specialists at what age they will transfer the adolescent to adult care and ask for support with the transfer.

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AGE 20

1. MassHealth stops covering **ABA** at age 21. Look for alternative ABA funding options e.g., grants or pay out-of-pocket, or alternative supports to ABA. If enrolled in school, they could provide ABA.
2. At age 21 **CBHI services** end e.g., Intensive Care Coordinator (ICC), Therapeutic Mentor (TM) & In-Home Behavioral Therapy (IHBT.) Explore alternative supports with PCP and specialists.

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AGE 21

Community Based Health Initiative (CBHI) services end. Talk to PCP about alternatives.

AGE 22

Public school ends on the adolescent's 22nd birthday.

