

Student Name _____ Parent Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ City _____ State Zip _____
 Home Phone _____ Name of School _____ Grade _____

The Chicago Youth Advocacy Project



For Additional information please contact:

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 The Illinois Department of Human
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Steps to Your Future

Chicago Youth Advocacy Project

The Chicago Youth Advocacy Project assists youth with Disabilities ages, 12-21, (or before High School Graduation) in preparing for the future.

The Chicago Youth Advocacy Project Provides:

- Help with Transition Plans and goals for your future.
- Information about services and resources;
- Training/educational activities to learn about jobs, independence, and other life decisions;
- Project services in your community.

Did you Know?

Students can be a part of their IEP meetings in all sorts of ways. They can write or draw their ideas, share information before the meeting or even record themselves talking about their goals for the future. Students can also bring a support person with to help them at their IEP meeting.

Q. What is Transition?

A. Transition refers to moving from the world of school to the adult world. It includes thinking about planning for the student's future. Transition planning has to legally begin at age 14½ for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Q. Who is included in Transition Planning?

A. Planning for "life after high school" is a team effort. The team includes the student, parent, school and agency staff. Together, the team decides on the services a student needs to successfully transition from the world of school to the world of adulthood. These services are based on the ideas and vision the student has for his or her future. The transition planning then becomes part of the student's IEP.

Q. How can students prepare?

A. Students are the focus of transition. It is important to bring your ideas about the future to your IEP team meeting. You will want to learn how to speak up for yourself at this meeting. This is called 'Self Advocacy' or 'Self-Determination.' It is a skill that you will need throughout all of your adult life.

The IEP meeting is a good place to begin practicing self-advocacy skills. Adults will be there to support you, but in the end, you make the decisions about your future!

Questions Parents Should Ask.

- What do you see your child enjoying?
- How will your child travel to where he or she needs to go?
- Where do you see your child living as an adult? Who is he or she living with?
- Will your child need a guardian ?
- Where will your child get money on which to live?

Remember:

Save all school, medical and work experience records in a file. The student will need them after he or she leaves high school.