



**Planning
for
Adult Life**

Developed with funding from the Division of Developmental Disabilities,
New Jersey Department of Human Services

Webinar Wednesday Series Today's Topic:

College Options for Students with I/DD

www.PlanningForAdultLife.org

Getting Ready For College

Presenter: Lisa Ford



A Post Secondary Option for Students with
I/DD

Why Go To College?



A College experience broadens a person's life!
Some of the most enriching opportunities include:

- Developing a love of learning
- Developing critical life and soft skills for community living and employment
- Developing organizational and time management skills
- An opportunity to navigate a new environment
- An opportunity to meet new people and develop new relationships
- An opportunity to take risks in a safe environment
- An opportunity to practice self advocacy and self determination skills
- An opportunity to make choices
- An opportunity to be autonomous: To be the driver not the passenger!



How Can Students and Families Prepare for College?



- Plan EARLY... (That starts with Transition Services)
- Have high expectations
- Help your child and school personnel see college as an option
- Visit colleges and look at college catalogs with your child
- Understand your child's disability, the impact of the disability and the supports needed.
- Create and foster opportunities for your child to develop self advocacy and self determination skills.
- As a parent, prepare to change your role from primary advocate to sharing support and guidance when needed.



What Are The Key Differences Between High School and College



- The structure of the day is different
- The expectations and opportunities for students are different
- The opportunities for independence are different
- The ways of teaching and learning are different
- The systems of testing and grading are different
- High school teachers vs. college professors



VS



High School is a **TEACHING ENVIRONMENT** in which you acquire facts and skills.

College is a **LEARNING ENVIRONMENT** in which you take responsibility for thinking through and applying what you have learned.

What Roles Do Self Advocacy and Self Determination Play in the College Experience?



Self Advocacy: Students learn to describe their strengths, describe their disability in functional terms and describe support needs.

Self-Determination: Students get to practice and learn how to make decisions in nearly every college experience.



Transition Services



Transition Services begin at 16. Transition planning can begin when your child turns 14. These services should be updated annually.

The ***statement of needed transition services*** within the IEP must include:

Instruction
 Employment
 Community Experiences
 Post-School/Education
 Related Services
 Daily Living Skills, if appropriate
 Functional Vocational Evaluation, if appropriate



Strategies/Activities



THE BIG PICTURE!

Post school activities should be looked upon as a set of **STRATEGIES**. They Should:

- Reflect and lead toward achieving the **desired** post school outcomes of your child
- Take into account your child's interests and preferences
- Identify, long range strategies in each of the transition planning areas that will help the student achieve their post-school goals
- Identify all agencies and individuals responsible for carrying out each strategy Ex: *school, service providers, vocational rehabilitation service providers, parents, student, educator, agency personnel, etc...*
- Identify who will provide and pay for each strategy



Example of an Education/Training Goal



Here is an example of a **measurable** post -secondary goal for education.

- ***Upon Completion of high school, John will enroll in courses at Ocean County Community College.***

This goal meets NSTTAC standard because of specific reason:



- Participation in post secondary education is the focus of this goal.
- Enrollment at a community college can be observed, as in John enrolls in courses or he does not
- Enrollment at a community college occurs after graduation, and it is stated that this goal will occur after graduation.

*This example was found in the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (2009) <http://www.nsttac.org>

A Non-Example of an Education/Training Goal



Here is an example of a non- measurable post -secondary goal for education.

- ***Upon graduation, John will continue to learn about life skills and reading.***

This goal does not meet NSTTAC standard because of specific reason:

- Participation in learning is the focus of this goal, but no specific place or program is specified.
- The expectation for learning, or behavior, is not explicitly stated.

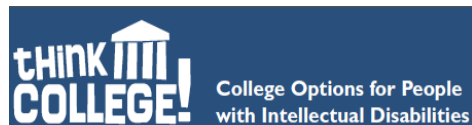
*This non-example was found in the National Secondary Transition Technical Assistance Center (2009) <http://www.nsttac.org>



Think College..



Think College is a national organization dedicated to developing, expanding, and improving inclusive higher education options for people with an **intellectual disability**. With a commitment to equity and excellence, Think College supports evidence-based and student centered research and practice by **generating and sharing knowledge, guiding institutional change, informing public policy, and engaging with students, professionals and families.**



What Colleges Offer What?



Here in New Jersey there are currently 7 programs available for individuals with intellectual and developmental Disabilities.

They are:

- Mercer County Community College: DREAM Program
- Brookdale Community College: Kach Program
- Camden County College: Garden State Pathways Program
- Bergen Community College: Turning Point Program
- Gloucester County College: Adult Center for Transition
- College of New Jersey: Career and Community Studies
- Raritan Valley Community College: The Achievement Center



Mercer County Community College: DREAM Program



Type of school: 2 year community college or junior college

Program Description: The DREAM program is student-centered, which means that each student's course of study is determined by the student's goals and needs.

Areas of study include:

Academic experiences e.g.: math, reading, writing skills.

Areas of interest ex: cooking, computer skills, and the arts.

Career related experiences e.g.: job shadowing and internships, resume writing, interviewing, money management, and personal safety.

Contact Person:
Dr. Susan Onaitis
609.570.3375

College of New Jersey : Career and Community Studies



Type of school: 4 year College or University

Program Description: This program is designed to provide academic, vocational and social experiences for young adults in a highly supportive yet challenging campus environment.

Areas of study:

- College course access
- Employment
- Self-Determination

Contact person:
Dr. Jeffrey Petroff
609.771.3342

Brookdale Community College: Keep Achieving (Kach)



Type of school: 2 year community college or junior college

Program Description: The Arc of Monmouth has collaborated with Brookdale Community College to address the needs of transitioning young adults with I/DD.

Kach identifies five areas of need:

- Self-determination
- Employment or volunteer opportunities
- Vocational training and Post secondary education
- Community involvement
- Social and civic affairs

Areas of study:

- Self-Determination
- College course access
- Employment

Contact Person:
Karen Halloran
732.493.1919

Camden County College: Garden State Pathways Program



Type of school: 2 year community college or junior college

Program Description: The program serves individuals who are interested in learning a work-related skill and enhancing their independence with life skills. Students may enter the program after meeting all high school requirements, despite not having accepted their official diploma. Students are required to spend time developing work related skills to enhance their marketability for a career.

Areas of study:

- *Employment*
- *Social skills development*
- *Self-Determination*

Contact Person:
Bernadette Gismonde
856.227.7200 ext 4503

Bergen Community College: Turning Point Program



Type of school: 2 year community college or junior college

Program Description: The Turning Point Program utilizes student-centered planning, enhanced academic advisement and peer mentoring support to provide an inclusive college experience that promotes the advancement of skills and knowledge in the areas of academic enrichment, socialization and career vocational skill development.

Top 3 areas of study:

- Employment
- Social skills development
- Self-Determination

Contact Person:
Tracy Rand
201.612.5589

Gloucester County College: Adult Center for Transition



Type of school: 2 year community college or junior college

Program Description: The Adult Center for Transition (ACT) is a division of the Gloucester County Special Services School District. It gives individuals an opportunity to achieve a successful transition to life after high school.

Areas of study

- *Employment*
- *Life Skills instruction*
- *Self-Determination*

Contact Persons:
Jackie Abrams & Joyce Feder
856.464.5204

Raritan Valley Community College The Achievement Center



Type of School: Community College

Program Description: A three year credential program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities offering classroom and internship experience at the post-secondary level to improve employment and social outcomes for the young adults of Somerset.

Areas of Study:

- Personal and career planning
- Supported Employment
- Community Inclusion

Contact Person:
Christopher Corvino
908.725.8544x615

Other Options....

The Warren County Special Services School District is partnering with Centenary College to provide a unique program for members of the community.

The H.I.L.L.S Program (Helping Individuals Learn Life Skills)

This program is designed to foster independence through positive learning experiences. Each student will have the opportunity to reach his/her highest level of independence in daily living skills before transitioning towards community-based activities.

Warren County Special Services School District can provide transportation to and from school each day. Targeted skill enhancement, as well as measurable vocational goals will help guide students toward pursuing entry level positions in retail and service industries as well as hospitality and food service.

For more information visit:

<http://www.centenarycollege.edu/cms/en/news-events-announcements-index/news-article/article/the-hills-at-centenary-college-to-open-this-fall/>

Possible Ways To Finance College



- Division of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services(DVRS)
- Federal Financial Aid
- Medicaid Waiver
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004
- Social Security Administration Work Incentives (SSA)
- Scholarships
- Developmental Disability State Agencies
- Foundations
- Tuition Waiver
- State Initiatives
- FAFSA



Division of Vocational and Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)



Program Description:

DVRS provides a wide range of individualized services to assist persons with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and/or maintain employment.

Services include Vocational assistance, ***education and vocational training***, and other services as required to assist the individual to achieve employment.

*Transportation assistance is available for eligible consumers who are receiving Vocational Rehabilitation services.

Fees: Most services are free for eligible consumers - sliding scale for some services

Eligibility: A person with a disability which results in a substantial impediment to employment

DVRS Can Provide The Following:



- Skills Training - Vocational school, technology or trade school, business school, etc.
- *College Training - 2 or 4 year programs leading to a degree*
- Driver Training - Assessment of driving ability and equipment needed to drive safely; assistance in purchasing driver training lessons if needed to reach a specific work goal.

Contact the local office or call the Central Office at 609-292-5987 for further information.



Federal Financial Aid



The Post Secondary Education Program must be an approved Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) through Federal Student Aid. Students are eligible for:

- Pell Grants
- Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants
- Federal Work Study

Students are **NOT** eligible for student loans
The Following link provides a listing of currently approved CTP:
<http://studentaid.ed.gov/eligibility/intellectual-disabilities>



Medicaid Waiver



Medicaid funds can not be used for tuition and fees but can be used to pay for student support services such as:

Education Coaches

Mentors

Physical or Occupational Therapies

Transportation

Supported Employment

Individual Support-

http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/supports_program.html



**It is important to note that every state waiver has defined what services and supports can be funded and it varies from state to state.*

Individuals With Disabilities Education Act 2004



The law allows IDEA funds to pay tuition and other costs for students to attend college.

- School districts across the country are participating in funding “dual enrollment” programs.

High Schools partner with local colleges or universities and fund students ages 18-21 to complete their educational program in a college setting.



Social Security Administration (SSA) Work Incentives



The *Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS)* program allows Social Security beneficiaries to exclude income that is being used to assist the person in returning to work.

Under a **PASS**, income is set aside for current or future expenses. This could include:
 training
 equipment
 services and supports
 * including college- as long as it's related to a specific employment goal.

To learn more visit:

<http://www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch/wi/pass.htm>

Scholarships



There are a small number of scholarship programs specifically for students with Down Syndrome. Here is a link to a list of scholarships for students with Down syndrome:

www.thinkcollege.net/resources-database/item/t-110/1630

You can also look at generic scholarships to determine if they might be eligible for your child:

www.elearners.com/online-education-resources/finances/college-grants-and-scholarships-by-state/



Developmental Disability State Agencies



Local, regional, and state agencies may not be able to support the program directly with funding but are able to realign their existing services to support their agency clients who are students attending college.

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) Support Program Services
http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/programs/supports_program.html

Ex: community services such as transportation can be adjusted to support transportation to college.



Foundations



There are many foundations that may provide funding to develop or maintain a post-secondary education program. These funds have covered a wide range of costs including program development, tuition and fees.

- Most states have an organization that offers free information on local foundations but it will require research.

for example: <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/>



Tuition Waiver



Tuition Waivers may be available through VR agencies, however, there is no universal implementation of waiver options nationally. A waiver that is provided by a VR agency would typically apply to any state-run college or university.

****Some community colleges also offer tuition waivers to individuals who receive SSI.***



Often, information about waivers is listed in the college catalog as a benefit for Senior Citizens. However, these waivers apply to students of any age receiving SSI.

Financial Aid Opportunities For Students With Disabilities

There are many circumstances that can make financing college harder for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Often it:

- Prevent students from attending school full-time, making it harder to qualify for financial aid and scholarships reserved for those with full-time status
- Prevent students from working part-time jobs to offset tuition costs
- Require access to accommodations or support that are not provided or covered by schools
- Require medical care that is not covered by school-sponsored insurance plans

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/disabled-students/#learning>

FAFSA Free Application For Federal Student Aid



There are many financing options and benefits available to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities: There are scholarships for individuals who have a:

[General Disability](#)

[Chronic Health Conditions](#)

[Hearing Impairments](#)

[Visual Impairments](#)

[Intellectual Disabilities](#)

[Learning Disabilities](#)

[Physical Disabilities](#)

Mental health



<http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/disabled-students/#learning>

One Example: Learning Disabilities



Learning disability is an umbrella term that includes ADD, ADHD and dyslexia . These can be qualified as “intellectual disabilities”, but are usually less cognitively inhibiting. Common accommodations for students with learning disabilities include longer exam periods, allowing students to take oral exams instead of written, or having a designated reader to assist that student.

1 in 25 college students had a learning disability in 2008-2009

<http://www.bestcolleges.com/financial-aid/disabled-students/#learning>

Transition Checklist

High School



Special Education Model

- School personnel will “find you” and decide eligibility

Where you receive services:

- Resource room, related services room, special education classroom

Documentation:

- Coordinated by the Child Study Team
- School develops IEP
- Tests are usually paid for by school

Special Education Law

IDEA provides the mandate and funding to schools for in-school special education services as well as transportation/buses to school etc. . .



Transition Checklist



College

Accommodations Model:

- You must request help; no one will come to FIND YOU

Where you receive services:

- Differs at each college (office of disability support services), special services

Documentation :

- You must prove proof of your disability
- Colleges can set their own guidelines for documentation
- High Schools aren't required to do comprehensive evaluation before graduation
- After high school you're responsible for paying for new evaluations, if needed.

Civil Rights Law:

- American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and section 504 of the Rehabilitation



KNOW YOUR OPTIONS

Program VS Support Services



Programs:

Are specifically designed for students with disabilities and provide more in depth services and accommodations.

These programs often provide one-on-one tutoring sessions with a peer mentor or a learning disability specialist.

Support Services:

These are resources available at no cost for students with disabilities. Support services include reasonable accommodations, such as extended time for assignments and testing, note takers, the use of a calculator, and preferential seating in classrooms.

Congratulations: You've Been Accepted...

Now What?



1. Register with the college's disability services office or program.

Remember you need to:

- Contact the campus office- they will **not** find you
- Provide the necessary documentation regarding your disability. It needs to be current and meet college guidelines
- Request the accommodations you will need (note-takers, assistive listening devices, testing modifications, textbooks on tape, etc..)
- Request these accommodations **before** scheduled placement tests (if applicable) or you will not receive accommodations for those tests

2. Arrange other supports not provided by school

- Do you need things like counseling, medication management, or other supports? Who will provide them for you & how will they affect your schedule?
- Develop back up plans for these supports

National Center for Learning Disabilities, INC

While Still in High School Your Child Needs To:



Find out about your disability

- Talk to your parents, high school teachers or guidance counselor

Actively Participate in all transition related meetings

- Know your rights!

Develop a personal information file with disability related information

- Important Documentation

Select and Plan College Choices

- Select the colleges you'd like to attend

Apply

- Good Luck!

National Center for Learning Disabilities, INC



Resources



- www.bergen.edu/turningpoint
- www.mccc.edu/student_services_needs_dream.shtml
- www.camdencc.edu/specialsupportprograms/garden-state-pathways.cfm
- www.arcofmonmouth.org/kach/
- <https://ccs.tcnj.edu>
- www.rcgc.edu/ACT/pages/default.ASPX
- www.ld.org
- www.Thearcfamilyinstitute.org
- www.Planningforadulthoodlife.org
- www.ahead.org
- www.inclusioninstitutes.org
- www.transitioncoalition.org
- www.heath.gwu.edu
- <http://www.nsttac.org>
- <http://www.hesaa.org/Pages/default.aspx>
- <http://www.raritanval.edu/>



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<http://www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org/spceial-campiangs/college-programs.html>