

A Parent's Guide to Transition Planning Through the IEP Process



Questions to ask at IEP Meetings & Resources



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Employment:

1. What specific career assessments (situational assessments, interest inventories, etc.) have been completed?
2. Are there opportunities for job shadowing, internships, or vocational rehabilitation programs integrated into the school day?
3. How will the teachers/case managers facilitate connections with state agencies like the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)?

Post-secondary Education:

1. If college is the goal, what accommodations or self-advocacy training will you be teaching so my child can transition to a university setting?
2. How early should we connect with the college's Office of Disability Services to discuss how to disclose my child's disability and access accommodations/modifications?

Timelines & Graduation:

1. What is the graduation track (standard diploma vs. certificate of attendance),
2. If my child requires a transition program (18-21), what campus or community-based programs does the district partner with?

Social Skills

1. How are teachers or teacher assistants facilitating social problem-solving when conflicts or misunderstandings occur with peers?
2. Does my child have opportunities to interact with neurotypical peers or peer models during structured social activities?
3. How does my child's social communication hold up in larger group settings compared with one-on-one interactions?

Independent Living & Life Skills:

1. What specific daily living skills (budgeting, public transit, meal prep, etc.) are you targeting for instruction?

Self-determination

1. How will my child be supported to actively participate in their own IEP meetings?
2. Does my child have the opportunity to be involved in the development of their own goals and accommodations?
3. How are teachers and support staff helping students communicate their needs independently instead of relying on adult prompts when facing challenges or needing a break?
4. How will you help my child understand their own IEP accommodations so they can confidently request the tools they need in a general education or future work setting?

Resources:

1. IEP Goal examples:
<https://adayinourshoes.com/iep-goal-bank/>
2. Transition Questions:
<https://peatc.org/questions-to-ask-when-reviewing-the-transition-iep/>
3. General questions:
<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/questions-to-ask-before-and-during-your-childs-iep-meeting>
4. Center for Parent Information & REsources -
<https://www.parentcenterhub.org/iep-transition/>