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MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services
IMPLEMENTATION BEST PRACTICES & CONSIDERATIONS

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DATE ISSUED: April 2021

TIPs to Support Secondary Transition in Virtual and Hybrid Learning

In the spring of 2020 schools responded to the COVID-19 global pandemic by moving from in-person instruction to virtual. In the fall of 2020, as students returned back to school, decisions had to be made about continuing virtual instruction, returning to in-person classrooms or a hybrid model, including some of both. COVID-19 has created many challenges to delivering transition services as identified in individualized transition plans. The lessons that were learned from transition planning in a virtual environment can continue to be applied to best serve students and families in whatever environment best meets their needs. Below are some tips and resources that may assist in addressing these transition activities in a virtual environment.

| Topic | Tips and Considerations |
|--------------------|---|
| Assessments | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use online fillable forms for interviews• Use an online platform such as Teams or Google Meet to complete interviews and create post-secondary goals• Have the student create a video to model skills that will be assessed• Access Maryland Learning Links for examples of transition assessments |

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| Transition Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide case managers with a list of suggested activities supporting various learning platforms (virtual, hybrid, in-person) • Use assessments to develop goals and activities considering virtual learning • Plan for completion of activities across various settings • If necessary, amend transition activities through the IEP process to ensure continued student growth |
| Agency Linkage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use virtual formats for transition planning with external agencies • Develop a plan for how teams will obtain signatures for consent to discuss and invite agencies as appropriate |
| Work Readiness Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider virtual job shadowing, virtual career exploration • Provide lessons on choice making using real life scenarios • Consider accessing the DORS Pre-Employment Transition Services (PreETS) in the virtual format • Update interest inventories and career exploration activities to reflect the most current student interests |
| Self-Advocacy, Self Determination, and Independent Living | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for a variety of conversations virtually to increase student confidence interacting with others on virtual platforms • Teach students how to use apps and tools on their device to further independence • Work with students to participate in and lead their IEP meetings • Work with families and students to establish schedules, menus, use of timers and alarms to develop independent living skills |
| Higher Education | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with higher education on virtual school tour(s) • Connect students with a higher education disabilities coordinator • Partner with local colleges and universities to present information on financial aid, application process, or other services • Explore partnerships utilizing dual enrollment options and think about braiding funding to support student attendance |
| Family Engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan virtual transition fairs to share resources • Conduct virtual meetings to increase family engagement and support families in how to access services and meetings virtually • Work with families to develop daily activities such as cooking, cleaning, communicating virtually, shopping |

Additional Resources

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| Maryland Learning Links | Resources, transition webinars, articles, and more | https://marylandlearninglinks.org/st/ |
| National Technical Assistance Center on Transition | Source for resources in delivering transition services during remote learning | https://transitionta.org/covid19 |
| Transition "Starters" for Everyone | Articles, guides, and online training for specific audiences: general, parents, professionals, students. | https://www.parentcenterhub.org/transition-starters/ |
| The Job Center | A website for youth and adults that provides activities relating to employment and independent living. | http://www.youthhood.org/jobcenter/index.asp |
| Get Ready for College: A Resource for Teens with Disabilities | A free series of online lessons that focus on college preparation, selection, and the disability services process. Appropriate for youth, family members, and professionals. | https://centerontransition.org/training/getready.cfm |
| Career Interests Game | A game designed to help students match interests and skills with similar careers. | https://career.missouri.edu/career-interest-game/ |
| Soft Skills to Pay the Bills | The Office of Disability Employment Policy curriculum focused on teaching workforce readiness skills. | https://www.dol.gov/agencies/odep/program-areas/individuals/youth/transition/soft-skills |
| ADE Secondary Transition Resources Padlets | A collection of transition assessments and resources for transition planning. | https://bit.ly/azstpadlets |
| Middle & High School Transition Planning | The National Parent Center on Transition and Employment website that provides information for families on supporting teens in high school, college planning, and preparing for employment. | https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/planning/ |
| Career One Stop | Source for career exploration, such as self-assessments, career profiles, and videos. | https://www.careeronestop.org/ |
| Explore Work | A website for youth with disabilities to identify careers that are aligned with their interests, preferences, and strengths. | https://explore-work.com/ |

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| Khan Academy College & Career | Khan Academy site that provides information and activities related to postsecondary transition | https://bit.ly/khancollege-career |
| Texas OnCourse | Texas OnCourse guides educators, students, and their families through the entire process of planning for what happens after high school. | https://bit.ly/TexasOnCourse |
| Roadtrip Nation | Resource for career exploration including videos, documentaries and interviews. | https://bit.ly/roadtrip_nation |
| My Future | Career, college, and military exploration | https://www.myfuture.com/ |

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