

TRANSITION PLANNING

Assisting students in long range planning for their future

Transition Planning

Transition planning is a collaborative service designed to assist students and their families in planning for the transition from school to adult life. Participating as a member of the student's transition team with school district staff, community agencies and parents, the APSEA Transition Planning Facilitator assists the student in long range planning for the future and in developing strategies to achieve their goals.

Transition Support

Transition Planning Facilitators and a Co-Op Education Facilitator employed by APSEA provide services to students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired. Students between the ages of 14 and 21 throughout New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island may access an array of transition services.

Individual Transition Plans

Individual Transition Plans (ITP) are different for every student. They will vary with ability levels, student needs, family and student preferences, and community opportunities.

Transition Planning Areas

Transition planning may assist the student and family in setting goals in some or all of the following areas:

- Education
- Residential/daily living
- Employment, work experience & volunteering
- Financial
- Social/recreational
- Networking
- Transportation, orientation & mobility
- Advocacy & legal
- Medical

Transition Planning Services

Transition services are developed in cooperation with community agencies and may include:

- Setting up and chairing transition meetings
- Developing a student profile and portfolio
- Career exploration activities
- Preparing for acceptance into post-secondary programs
- Assisting with employment preparation
- Exploring financial supports
- Establishing and maintaining links with student, parents, school district staff, government agencies and post-secondary institutions
- Establishing links with business and industry for work placement positions
- Encouraging involvement in high school work experience programs and summer employment

Transition Planning Teams

One step in the Individual Transition Plan process is to form a Transition Team. Transition Teams are comprised of individuals who are currently involved in the student's life and people who will be involved with the student after he/she finishes high school. Family support and advocacy is invaluable to the student's successful transition.

Transition team members typically are:

- Student and his/her family members
- School and school district representatives
- APSEA itinerant teacher and transition planning facilitator
- Community services
- Residential services & advocacy agencies
- Employment services
- Post-secondary program representatives
- Recreation/leisure services
- Health & medical services

The role of the APSEA transition planning facilitator is to be a part of the transition team, to contribute his/her expertise and knowledge specific to individuals with hearing loss or visual impairment, and to develop resources in support of the student's goals. Transition team members are catalysts for, or active links to programs, services, and resources for students and parents.

The Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA) is an interprovincial co-operative agency established in 1975 by joint agreement among the Ministers of Education of New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island. APSEA serves children and youth from birth to 21 years of age who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually

impaired and who reside in Atlantic Canada.

APSEA supports the philosophy of the inclusion of students with sensory loss with their peers in their community schools. School districts are recognized as having responsibility for the education of all school age children.

Programs and services offered by APSEA are designed to assist school districts in the provision of adaptations required for students who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, blind, and visually impaired. APSEA supports a service delivery system which makes it possible for each child to receive an educational program designed to meet the student's individual needs. Some programs are provided through short-term programs (one week to five months) at the APSEA Centre in Halifax.

For further information, please contact:

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