

IEP Transition Planning In Virginia Tips To Know For Youth (Age 14 And Older) With IEPs Who Are In Foster Care



A WAZE To Adulthood Fact Sheet

Thank you to Formed Families Forward for their partnership in this resource

Children and youth with disabilities who are in foster care are in a unique position. Often many individuals and agencies are involved with their care, education, and transition planning. The individualized education program (IEP) team should be aware of the following:

1. There are additional people, outside of those mentioned in IDEA, who may be a part of the IEP Transition Planning team.

- Foster or Resource Parents
- Birth Parents, where appropriate
- Youth's Foster Care Case Manager or Service Worker
- Youth's Independent Living (IL) Coordinator

2. Who signs consent for the IEP?

For students under the age of 18:

- The birth parent if termination of rights has not occurred; otherwise, the foster or resource parent can sign consent.
- A court can designate another individual to serve as special education decisionmaker. In most cases, this should not be the foster care worker.

For students 18 and older with no Power of Attorney or Legal Guardianship involved:

- The student

3. IEP Teams should know about the student's foster care Transition Plan (often called the Chafee Program Transition Plan) and coordinate goals when possible.

The Chafee Program Transition Plan is a youth-driven plan developed for all youth ages 14 and older in foster care. This plan is updated annually. Both the IEP Transition Plan and the Chafee Program Transition Plan include the youth's strengths and current levels in area of need, goals, how goals will be measured and by when, and a statement of services and supports that will be provided to the youth for the transition to adulthood.

4. All youth 14 and older should have a life skills assessment. Most local departments of social services use the **Casey Life Skills Assessment**. This assessment is usually given by the foster care case worker or IL coordinator, and it looks at strengths, interests, and needs. It includes knowledge of basic living skills, job readiness, money management abilities, decision making skills, goal setting, task completion, and transitional living

Did You Know?

Education and Training Voucher Program (ETV)

ETV is available for youth who have experienced foster care and are at least 14 years of age and not yet 26 years of age. ETV provides up to \$5,000 per year for post-secondary education and training to those who have completed high school or GED. A person can receive ETV for up to 5 years.

For more info:

<https://dss.virginia.gov/v/fmf/educational.html>

needs. The assessment should guide the foster care transition plan. The IEP team should be sure to look at this assessment information when working with students in foster care 14 and older.

5. **Students in foster care have access to Independent Living (IL) services.** These include various activities, education, training, and services. IL services can build on and match the school IEP Transition Plan. Some examples of **IL services** are:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| Life skills Assessment | Employment Programs or Vocational Training |
| Academic Support | Budget and Financial Management |
| Career Preparation | Housing Education and Risk Prevention |
| Mentoring | Family Support and Health Marriage Education |
| Education Financial Assistance | Room and Board Financial Assistance |
| Independent Living Arrangement | |

6. **There are some specific services and supports available for youth and young adults in foster care of which IEP Transition Planning teams should be aware.**

These include the **Educational and Training Voucher Program (ETV)** described on Page 1 and **Chafee Program Funding**.

Chafee Program funding is flexible funding that can be used to support IL services for youth who have experienced foster care and are between the ages of 14 to 21. In Virginia, youth who have aged out of foster care up to age 23 may also be eligible for limited funding on a case-by-case basis. Chafee funds can be used for:

- helping with high school, GED, or post-secondary education and training
- training and opportunities to practice daily living skills
- achieving permanent connections with caring adults
- engaging in activities which promote positive youth development
- experiential learning that reflects what peers in intact families experience



Virginia Resources

Foster My Future (for ages 18-21)

<https://dss.virginia.gov/fmf/>

Chafee Program Transition Planning

<https://dss.virginia.gov/fmf/living.html>

IL Services

<https://www.vadars.org/cbs/index.htm>

Project Life

<https://www.vaprojectlife.org/>



PEATC's mission focuses on building positive futures for Virginia's children by working collaboratively with families, schools, and communities to improve opportunities for excellence in education and success in school and community life.



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