

Community Transition Programs are specifically designed to meet the needs of adult students with disabilities who have completed high school with a Modified or Extended Diploma or Certificate of Attainment.

What is my child learning?

Instruction is based on a student's individual goals, and may include postsecondary or vocational education, integrated and/or supported employment, independent living and community participation.

Daily Living Skills

- Managing personal finances
- Caring for personal needs
- Managing a household
- Choosing and accessing public transportation
- Utilizing recreational facilities and engaging in leisure
- Demonstrating relationship responsibilities
- Buying, preparing and consuming food
- Buying and caring for clothing

Self Determination and Interpersonal Skills

- Understanding self-determination
- Being self-aware
- Developing interpersonal skills
- Communicating with others
- Good decision making
- Developing social awareness
- Understanding disability rights and responsibilities

Employment Skills

- Knowing and exploring employment possibilities
- Exploring employment choices
- Seeking, securing and maintaining employment
- Exhibiting appropriate employment skills

Similarities & Differences

Students are eligible for a community transition program if they:

- (1) qualify for special education services;
- (2) have completed four years of high school programming, and;
- (3) have not earned a standard high school diploma.

What are the similarities and differences between CTPs and high schools?

CTPs are programs designed to specifically meet the needs of adult students in key areas related to their transition into the community.

Differences	Similarities
Attendance is not mandatory, CTPs are choice programs	IEPs are developed annually through the IEP team process
The "classroom" is most frequently a community business, where students receive instruction in real world skills	CTPs follow the district calendar for secondary schools, with some minor differences
No report cards or credits are generated—all progress is documented through Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)	Transportation may be provided (although we are always working towards independence in public transportation)
Days, times and instruction are individually determined based on a student's goals, interests and needs	Students participate in a graduation event when they "age" out at the end of the school year in which they turn 21

Who is involved in the plan?

During these three years of transition planning, your CTP team will work diligently to connect your family with community and agency resources designed for supporting adults experiencing disabilities.



Student

During these three years, the student is at the center of all programming and decision-making. Classroom instruction and community experiences are based on the student's preferences, interests, needs, and strengths.



Vocational rehabilitation

Many of our students in the CTPs qualify for vocational rehabilitation services. Vocational Rehabilitation is an agency designed to support individuals experiencing disabilities in finding and keeping paid, competitive employment in the community.



Marion & Polk County Developmental Disability Services

Some students qualify for ongoing services to support their independent living needs. Our CTPs work closely with the county offices to support collaboration and coordination of services between school and home to ensure consistent implementation of the IEP and ISP (Individual Support Plan).



Brokerages

Some adults eligible for DD Services elect to have services provided through a Support Services Brokerage to assist with living independently in the home. Currently, Marion and Polk Counties have three local Support Service Brokerages, all of which are close partners with the CTPs in the transition planning process.



Providers

A number of agencies exist across Marion and Polk counties, all designed to support with ongoing individual needs around competitive employment, community engagement and independent living. Your CTP team, along with your DD Service Coordinator or Brokerage Personal Agent, will help you and your family navigate these agencies to find what works best for you!

How can I help at home?

As a parent or guardian, you are the most influential person in your child's future success.

There are many things you can do to help set your student up for success in life after the transition program.

Tips to prepare your child for graduation at home

- Encourage self-determination and self-advocacy
- If you believe your child may qualify for developmental disability services, or if you are unsure, talk with your high school case manager; eligibility for adult services is easier if the process is completed before the student turns 18
- Practice basic job interview questions for a job your child is interested in
- Talk as a family about what you hope your child's life will look like after they leave the community transition program, and share this at your annual IEP meeting
- Prepare your student to problem solve situations that may occur in community settings, as this is where they will be spending most of the day
- Communicate to your child that each day they are "going to work" rather than "going to school"