



## Top 6 Things to Do Before Graduation

A quick action checklist for families of youth with disabilities preparing for life after high school.

### 1. Review Legal Requirements

- Understand age of majority and how rights transfer.
- Explore options like guardianship, supported decision-making, or power of attorney.
- Ensure transition planning is written into the IEP.

### 2. Explore Education & Training Routes

- Meet with your child's IEP team about postsecondary goals.
- Research colleges, trade schools, and certificate programs with disability supports.
- Complete FAFSA and explore scholarships or VR funding.

### 3. Apply for Benefits & Services

- Start the Medicaid waiver application process (waiting lists can be long).
- Check eligibility for SNAP, TANF, and transportation supports.
- Gather necessary medical, educational, and financial documentation.

### 4. Connect with Vocational Services

- Apply early (can begin as early as age 14–16 in some states).
- Learn about services such as job coaching, training, and assistive technology.
- Coordinate VR services with school transition planning.

### 5. Plan for Housing & Independent Living

- Explore supported living models and public housing programs.
- Contact local housing authorities about Section 8 vouchers.
- Talk with your child about preferences and long-term living goals.

Pro Tip: Start early! Many services and supports have long timelines. Begin transition planning by age 15 to ensure smoother pathways after graduation.



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