



Middle School: Preparing for High School and Post- High School Life

What Parents of Children with Disabilities Need to Know



What if my child does not want to go to college but wants a job instead?

What is the job your child wants?

- Welding
- Work with computers
- Chef
- Construction
- What???? They all require training beyond high school
 - So where will they obtain the training to get their “dream job”???

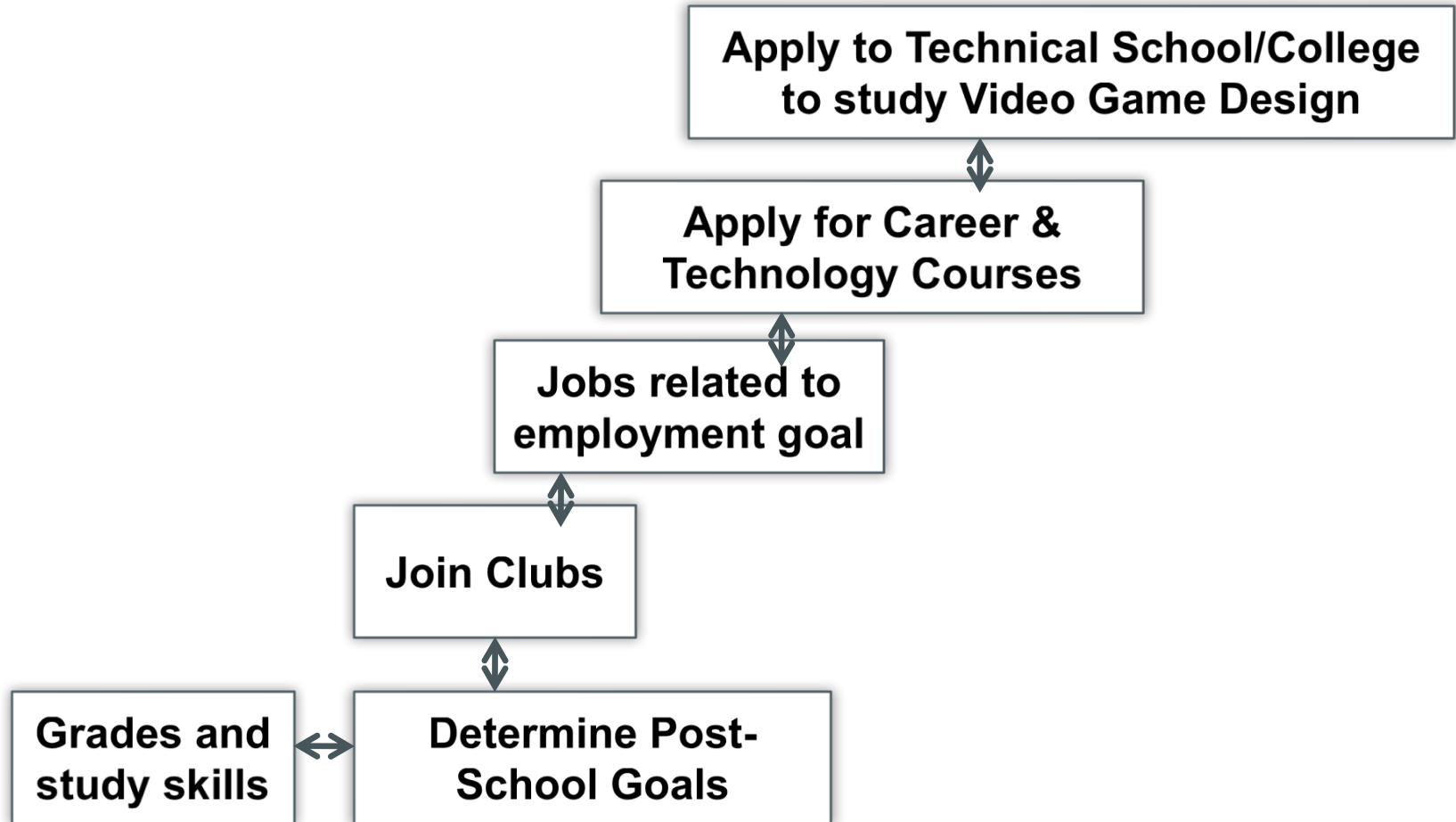
High School

- Begin with the end in mind (Stephen Covey)
- Backward planning
 - Technical school or college
 - Wants to be a video game designer
 - 11th & 12th: Participates in Career & Technology Education

High School

- Begin with the end in mind (Stephen Covey)
- Backward planning
 - 9th thru 12th: Joins the technology club
 - Gets seasonal jobs in businesses with computers or video games: Best Buy, Apple Computer Store, Game Stop, etc.
 - Middle school: keep your grades up so you can register for CTE and get a good job
 -STARTING POINT... YOU ARE HERE!!!!

High School





What Is Post-Secondary Education?

What is Post-Secondary Education?

- It may be:
 - College or University: 2 or 4-Year Degrees
 - Community College: 2-Year Degree or Certificate
 - Trade/Technical School: 2-Year Degree or Certificate
 - Community Education
 - Classes for a certificate
 - Classes to learn a skill
 - Classes for fun



A certificate is less than 2 years and may be as short as 3 months, 1 month, or a few days, depending on the type of certificate and training requirements.

Examples

- College or University
 - University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA)
 - Our Lady of the Lake
 - Texas A&M San Antonio
- Community College
 - Alamo Community College District (St. Phillips, Northwest Vista College, Northeast Lakeview College, San Antonio, and Palo Alto College)

Examples

- Technical/Trade Schools
 - ITT Tech
 - Texas State Technical College (Harlingen, Marshall, Waco, Sweetwater, Abilene, Brownwood, and Breckenridge)

Examples

- Community Education
 - Community College: Continuing Education- guitar, jewelry making, photography, etc.
 - The Arc of San Antonio: Culinary Arts
 - VSA Arts of Texas (Austin, TX)

College or Training???

- Do you want to go to college?
- If not, what type of job do you want and will it require some additional training?
 - Where will you get the training: on the job, at a technical school, or at a college?

Resource

- **Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities**
 - Resource Guide on Higher Education for People with Disabilities (Update October 2008)
 - <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/collegehtml.asp>
- **A Guide for Students with Physical Disabilities**
 - <http://www.disabilityfriendlycolleges.com/>
- **Texas State Library and Archives Commission**
 - <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/tbp/dirc/transitionguide.html>

Colleges with Specialized Programs

- **Midwestern State University; Wichita Falls, TX; Autism Support Program**
 - <http://education.mwsu.edu/asp/>
- **University of New Mexico; Roswell, NM: Occupational Training Program**
 - http://www.roswell.enmu.edu/special_services/occupational_training_program.php

Using Natural Supports

Natural Support Systems for Students with Disabilities

Vickie J Mitchell, Ed.D

Elementary	Intermediate	High School	College
Special Education Department	Special Education Department	Special Education Department	Office for Students with Disabilities (At BC, it is the Counseling Dept)
Extended time on tests	Extended time on tests	Extended time on tests	Extended time on tests
Reader	Reader	Reader	Reader
Books on tape/e-books	Books on tape/e-books	Books on tape/e-books	Books on tape/e-books
Note-taking assistance	Note-taking assistance	Note-taking assistance	Note-taking assistance
Assistive technology	Assistive technology	Assistive technology	Assistive technology
Tutoring	Tutoring	Tutoring	Tutoring
Study groups	Study groups	Study groups	Study groups
Separate location for tests	Separate location for tests	Separate location to take tests	Separate location to take tests
Best practice for inclusion is staffing and scheduling that makes early class assignments	Best practice for inclusion is staffing and scheduling that makes early class assignments.	Best practice for inclusion is staffing and scheduling that makes early class assignments	Advanced class registration
Special transportation	Special transportation	Special transportation	Special transportation
Paraprofessionals	Paraprofessionals	Paraprofessionals	Special assistant (Physical disabilities)
Team Leader/Diagnostician	Dept Chair/Diagnostician	Dept Chair/Diagnostician	Counselor/Advisor

Students who use supports in college and the world of work are more likely to have learned the value of natural supports and used them during high school. Students with disabilities at the elementary level, who understand the value of and use natural supports, are more likely to use them in secondary grades. It is critical not to over-support students and to teach them to use natural supports that extend beyond the special education services of public school. Practicing self-determination should not begin at secondary level; it must begin at the elementary level.



Parent/Child Conversations: Things to Talk About

Things to Talk About

- Does your child want to go to college? Does he know what he wants to study?
- Going for the experience...is it okay?
- Selecting a college:
 - There are colleges that meet the minimum requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
 - AND there are colleges that go beyond the minimum

Two Sources of Information

- The Princeton Review K&W Guide for Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities or ADD
 - ISBN 037576495X
- Peterson's Colleges with Programs for Students with Learning Disabilities or Attention Deficit Disorders
 - ISBN 0768912687

Citizenship and College

- Undocumented Students
 - May attend college
 - Are not required to report citizenship status
 - May receive disability services at the college IF they qualify with supporting documents:
 - (1) current public school IEP and psychological testing, **and/or**
 - (2) supporting documentation from a doctor



“NEXT STEP: Failure is Not an Option”

Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities

NEXT STEP

- Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities
- <http://www.txddc.state.tx.us/resources/publications/NextStepVideo.asp>
- Video on high education and students with disabilities in Texas





Preparing for College

**Post-Secondary Education: What Students with Disabilities
And Their Parents/Guardians Need to Know**



You won't get help in college!

Should I go to College?

1. Why not?
2. Don't set limits for yourself.
3. Try it, you just might like it.
4. Should I go to a technical college, community college or university.
5. Should I go away to school or stay at home and attend a local college.

Where do I go to find the help?

1. Colleges/universities have offices for students with disabilities.
2. Make an appointment and go visit the colleges or universities you are interested in attending.
3. Documentation is required.
4. SHOP AROUND! Everybody is different.

What about admissions requirements?

1. In the fall of 2009, students must graduate on the recommended or distinguished graduation plan to enter as a freshman at Texas public colleges and universities.
2. Students graduating on the minimum plan may enter as a freshman at a community college or trade/technical school.
3. Some have more admission requirements than others.
4. Some look at the TAKS scores, SAT, and ACT
5. Students who do not score at the required level of the TAKS (above the public school pass rate), the ACT or the SAT will be required to take a placement test. This varies at each community college.
6. Some have a formula for admission and testing is only part of the requirement.
7. Your resume: work experience, extra-curricular activities and references are important.

What if I can't pass the entry tests?

1. Most colleges and universities require a type of placement tests if the TAKS score, ACT or SAT are below certain numbers.
2. The most common are known as the THEA, AccuPlacer, or Compass.
3. Some are paper/pencil and some are computer versions
4. What if I don't pass this test?

Are there exemptions if you don't pass the tests?

1. No but there are exceptions and requirements that vary from college to college.
2. What are developmental classes?
3. What if I don't pass the developmental classes?

Ideas for Preparing for College



Applying for College

Texas Common Application

- Gone are the days of having to apply separately to each college/university.
 - Students may complete one application, copy it, and immediately submit the information to a different college/university.
- You can apply for admission and scholarships online. It is free and takes approximately 1 hour to complete.
- Can search for college admission information.
- https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/gen/c_start.WBX

There is More!!

- Visit the colleges you wish to attend.
- Some have weekend visits where students stay in dorms rooms and participate in campus activities.
- **Absolutely DO NOT SELECT A COLLEGE WITHOUT KNOWING THE DISABILITY SERVICES AVAILABLE!!**
 - Excellent university/college, not so good disability services.
 - Good college/university, **EXCELLENT** disability services.

There is More!!

- ONCE YOU HAVE DECIDED:
 - Submit your application to the college(s) of your choice.
 - Obtain the necessary documentation from the diagnostician at the high school and submit your request for eligibility for disability services to the disability service office at the college/university.
 - There are NO MODIFICATIONS in college, only ACCOMMODATIONS

There is More!!

- Accommodations:
 - First the college will look at the list of accommodations on your child's IEP
 - “Don't even think about it”... no, don't add to the IEP accommodations for your child and make them “support dependent”!!
- Understand the system:
 - Your child will start with the accommodations he had in high school
 - After college classes start, your child should note of what is working and not working. If he need additional accommodations go to the office for disability services. Make the new request based on the new information, the increase in requirements at the college level that are different from high school.
 - At that point the college may add accommodations the student did not have in high school if he qualifies.

Accommodations

- Possible accommodations in college:
 - Note-taker
 - Books on tape or CD
 - Extra time to take the test
 - Quiet location to take the test
 - Tutor
 - Reader for test
 - Software for reading and writing (not all have this)
 - Early registration for classes
 - And many more

NOTE: Supports vary by college and you must be eligible. There are no “ENTITLEMENTS” after public school!!



Funding College

FUNDING SOURCES: But only if you qualify!!

- DARS: books and tuition
- FAFSA Federal Loans and Grants
 - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
 - Apply early before funds run out
 - Must have Social Security number, dependency status, provide tax return information, and can apply online.
- College counseling office



Next Steps

It Depends

- Elementary:
 - Drive through and walk around college campuses.
 - Talk about college/trade/technical school as a given, not a mystery.
- Middle School:
 - Go to college and career night. Visit the tables/booths for technical and trade schools, too, not just colleges!
 - Walk around and collect brochures at college and career night. Don't forget the pens, bags, and "free stuff." It becomes a postsecondary education "identity."
 - Drive/walk through campuses.

It Depends

- High School (**Not a senior**)
 - Talk to DARS about books and tuition money.
 - Attend college and career night.
 - Participate in a summer opportunity at a community college. Let your child become familiar with the campus.
 - Have discussions about what you can afford, ideas for paying for college, if the child can go away to college or if you want your child to remain at home and attend community college, etc.
 - Help your child begin to identify 3 colleges that fit the child's education and career goals and meet your parent requirements for funding and location.

It Depends

- High School (**Graduating Senior**)
 - Visit the selected colleges and offices of disability services.
 - Apply to each college, if your child has more than 1 choice.
 - Apply to DARS for books and tuition funding and to FAFSA for loans/grants
 - Submit your disability documentation to the college ODS office for eligibility for disability services.
 - Ask to meet with a college junior/senior who is served by ODS. Ask them for advice. These “little conversations” are worth “GOLD”!!!

Resources in Your District

- District Transition Specialist
- High School Counselor
- DARS Counselor for your child's high school
- Local community college
- Online resources

Question & Answer

- Time to Talk





**Parents, it is up to us to give our children a “vision with a future.”
We are all lifelong learners.**