

STUDENT: _____
SCHOOL/DISTRICT: _____

PARENTAL CHECKLIST FOR PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Planning for your child’s future can never start too early. While there are a number of people to assist with this planning process at every age, YOUR involvement as a parent/guardian is key to a smooth transition for your child. This checklist may be useful to ensure that you are prepared and offers suggested steps that can be taken and resources that can be utilized throughout the process.

Every Year

- Meet with your agency supports and school IEP team members
- Discuss your child’s abilities and interests with all teachers, agency and service providers, therapists, etc., and how these can be utilized to reach academic, social, employment, and life goals
- Ask about accommodations and technology available to help your child meet school and life goals
- Use the Individualized Education Program (IEP) to create the right goals to help your child gain skills and knowledge that can be built upon year after year
- Build on the goals and achievements started the year before to ensure continued progress

Any Age (3-21 Years Old)

- Request that the school complete a full ETR at the next three-year evaluation (not a records review). Be sure the ETR includes updated information and data, as well as cognitive scores and adaptive behavior scores.
- Gather various documents and have accessible including:
 - Child’s birth certificate
 - Child’s social security card
 - Medical documentation of child’s disability
- Apply to the Geauga County Board of Developmental Disabilities
- Apply for Social Security Benefits and Medicaid
- Establish estate planning (Special Needs Trust)
- Establish a STABLE account
- Continually assess social skills, self-determination, and self-advocacy skills, both formally (at school) and informally (at home and in social settings) to determine areas of strength and need
- Obtain a State ID and consider enrolling in LEADS under the Ohio Communication Disability Law
- Connect with other parents in Geauga, Lake and Cuyahoga County programs, through the Educational Service Center of Western Reserve and the Ohio Parent Mentor Program, and through groups in your home district

12-14 Years Old (Prior to Age 14)

- Review items in the above sections (“Every Year” and “Any Age”) and complete as needed
- Transition planning begins, and the transition part of the IEP should begin to be developed (Section 5 of the IEP)
- Ensure a multidisciplinary team is established for educational and societal organizations. Parents/guardians are important members of the team.
- Identify student’s: preferences, interests, needs/challenges, strengths, and postsecondary goals
- Allow for the student to voice interests so that support and activities for them can be set up
- Consider sexual development and need for education

