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Upcoming Events

- **Ongoing** - SSES Application Open Using New Eligibility Criteria
- **Thursday, November 18th** - Consolidated Planning Group: Government Benefits 101 Webinar
- **Thursday, November 18th** - University of Texas E4 Program Virtual Open House
- **Tuesday, November 30th** - Consolidated Planning Group: Transitions Webinar
- **Wednesday, December 1st** - Application Deadline for Aggie ACHIEVE
- **Saturday, December 4th** - University of North Texas ELEVAR Open House
- **Sunday, December 5th** - University of Oklahoma Sooner WORKS Virtual Open House
- **Wednesday, January 5th** - Project SEARCH Applications Available
- **Saturday, March 5th** - SAVE THE DATE!! Destination Life Virtual Transition Fair

LTISD Transition Specialist
Erika Musick-Griffin  musicke@ltisdschools.org  (512) 533-6153

November’s Transition Focus is on Post-Secondary Education Opportunities!

More and more high school students with disabilities are planning to continue their education in postsecondary schools, including vocational and career schools, two- and four- year colleges, and universities. As a student with a disability, you need to be well informed about your rights and responsibilities as well as the responsibilities postsecondary schools have toward you. Being well informed will help ensure you have a full opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the postsecondary education experience without confusion or delay.

(adapted from the US Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights website: https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/transition.html).

Check out the resources on Post-Secondary Education Opportunities shared in this month’s newsletter!

Did you know that the Texas Transition & Employment Guide has been updated?

Head over to the Texas Transition Network Website https://www.texastransition.org/ to download a copy in English or Spanish.
Post Secondary Education Opportunities

Information, counseling and guidance for you on what post-secondary programs are available, what each requires, cost, and help with understanding financial aid, registration, and accessing accommodations are a key component to transition planning. Resources shared in this month’s newsletter will highlight some of the helpful information available online and at your fingertips!

Explore opportunities at Community Colleges, Universities, Career Pathways related to workshops and training programs, Trade/Technical Schools, the Military and Post-Secondary programs at community colleges and Universities for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your campus counselor, case manager and the Transition Specialist can help you investigate post-secondary education opportunities.

Take a look at what the newly updated Texas Transition & Employment Guide Says on Post Secondary Education...

Adapted from the TEA Website, November 2021

The Texas Transition and Employment Guide can help students with disabilities to plan for adult life. You can begin planning while you are in school. Use this guide to find out what to expect and where to find help. You will see the term “family” used to describe the person or people in your life who support you. Family might be your mom, your dad, or another family member. Family can also mean a foster parent or someone else who makes legal decisions for you.

The updated guide includes questions to ask yourself as you plan for adulthood. Let’s look a little further into the section focused on post-secondary education.
Learning doesn’t stop when you graduate. Most people need more than a high school diploma to reach their career goals. You have many options for learning in adulthood. You might hear these options called “higher education” or “postsecondary education.”

First, think about the options to consider.

**College or university**
Earn a bachelor’s degree or an advanced degree.
» Admissions requirements to earn these degrees
» Usually takes at least 4 years to complete the program for a bachelor’s degree

**Community college**
Earn an associate degree or certification.
» Open enrollment, possibly with placement tests to see which classes you need to take
» Usually takes 1 or 2 years to complete a program

**Career college**
Get hands-on learning to build skills for a specific career.
» Also called vocational, technical, or trade school

**Online learning**
Classes that may count toward a degree are taken online.
» Access courses through the computer to learn skills or earn certifications

**Postsecondary programs and services for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities**
Earn a certification or take college classes without earning a degree.
» Available at some colleges and universities
» Open enrollment, typically no entrance exams
» Inclusive opportunities, structure, and duration vary across programs
Community/informal classes
Learn skills for fun and connect with others who share your interests.
» Open enrollment, no entrance exams
» Classes can be offered as briefly as one day or can meet regularly

On-the-job training
Learn new skills through training offered by your workplace.
» Optional or required
» Can last from one hour to several days

Other learning
What do you want to know more about or to be able to do? Who already has those skills and can teach you?

Next, think about supports that work best for you in the classes you are taking now.

» Accommodations. These adaptations change how the teacher presents information or how you show what you know. You meet the same standard as peers your age. Some accommodations are large print, a quiet place to relax when anxious, or sitting where you learn best (like close to the teacher).

» Modifications. These adaptations change what you are expected to learn. You study the same things as peers your age, but you are not expected to meet the same standard. One example of a modification is watching the movie version of a book instead of reading it. Another modification might be spelling assistance on a spelling assignment.

Some of the supports listed above might not be available in the program you want to pursue. See the questions on page 23 to plan for conversations about support options in the program. Take a moment to think about what type of learning you want for yourself in the future. Who can help you think about your learning goals? Who do you feel comfortable sharing information about your disability?

My life, my voice: Self-determination in postsecondary education

☐ Learn how to describe your disability and strengths.
☐ Explain the support you receive in your classes: what works for you to learn, complete assignments, or take tests.
☐ Connect with a mentor who can talk about his or her experience going to college with a disability.
☐ Choose classes that will be needed to meet admissions requirements in the college or program you want to attend.
☐ Participate in extracurricular activities that you find interesting, enjoyable, or rewarding. Take risks by joining different clubs or organizations.
☐ Set goals for your learning, such as completing a project before it is due, then list the steps to meet the goal, such as doing part of the project each day.
☐ Manage your schedule. Know when you need to be at school, in class, or in activities. Plan for how long it will take you to organize yourself and arrive on time.
☐ Ask your teacher to explain assignments if you are not sure what to do.
☐ Ask your Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselor about support options through VR, including tuition reimbursements.

What skills do you already have? What would you like to be able to do next?
If you are struggling to think about what you want to learn after high school:

- You’re in good company! Many students wonder what is possible for them after high school.
- Reflect on what you find interesting and like learning about. Participate in transition assessments to discover your strengths.
- Talk to a trusted teacher or family member about your concerns for postsecondary education.

**Spotlight on supports: Meet the Disability Services Office**

You won’t have an IEP in college!

Special education services are only available in public schools. Postsecondary schools do not have to provide the same services available for high school students. If you decide to go to college, you will need to request any needed accommodations. You will be protected against discrimination, and you can expect things like wheelchair ramps, but there will be different processes to support students with disabilities.

Find the office for disability services at the school you want to attend. This office might be called something like “learning support” or “accessibility services.” If you have trouble finding the right office, ask an advisor or recruiter for the school to find the people who can help you get accommodations and other support.

You will need documentation of your disability. Look in your Summary of Performance (SOP) or find the Full and Individual Evaluation (FIE) in your IEP. Be prepared to talk about what worked during high school to be successful in your classes.

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**Texas Transition and Employment Guide**

NEWLY UPDATED IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH!!

Find the newly updated Texas Transition and Employment Guide online at:

Who should use this guidebook? This guidebook is written to assist high school students and their families when considering college as a future option. The guidebook contains basic information, tools, and resources to help students make informed decisions about whether or not college is for them. Specific information is provided to assist students with disabilities in planning for and making decisions about going to college.

What does the term “college” refer to in this guidebook? The term college in this guidebook refers to vocational or technical colleges, 2-year community colleges or 4-year colleges.

What are the General Differences Between High School and College?

Take a look! [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zsf4BmXpxTirBPuL4x5Z1q58mKUEUet/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Zsf4BmXpxTirBPuL4x5Z1q58mKUEUet/view)

When exploring and planning for post-secondary education, it is important to recognize the differences between high school and college. This resource will share the differences as related to:

- Classes
- Teachers/Professors
- Studying
- Testing
- Grades
- Laws and responsibilities
- Other factors to consider

What are the differences between a Trade School, Community College, and University?


Information from Value Colleges:

Deciding on postsecondary schooling for high school graduates is not the no-brainer decision it was just a few years ago. For many though, going to a four-year college is the be-all end-all, and for one main reason, higher income.

On the other hand, students can’t just take into account income when a multitude of other circumstances inevitably arise in choosing their postsecondary. The choice between post-secondary schooling depends on a few main factors such as the student’s career goals, financial situation, life situation, and how much time one has for schooling.

Furthermore, the job market is changing, affecting many students’ educational paths. With the higher cost of attending four year institutions and underwhelming employment rates for students with bachelor’s degrees, community college and technical schools are increasingly becoming lucrative and rationally sound options for high school graduates.
Information from Study.com:
Both trade schools and community colleges have a variety of programs that provide hands-on experience so you can get a job as soon as possible. However, it is important to weigh the benefits and drawbacks of these educational institutions to determine the best option for your learning style. Visit Study.com at the link above for more information!

Trade and Technical Schools

Post secondary education opportunities may also include trade and technical schools.

Hands-on training paired with classroom instruction results in post-secondary credentials such as occupational licenses or certifications.

Examples include:
- Cosmetology/Barbering License
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) License
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) License
- Business Enterprise Program (BEP)
- Registered Apprenticeship Occupational Certificates
- Career and Technical Education (CTE)/Job Corps Certificates
- Microsoft Certified IT Professional (MCITP)
- Certified Welder or Automotive Service Excellence (ASE)

Trade and Technical Schools in Texas

For Lone Star State residents who are interested in starting a new future, trade schools in Texas provide courses in a number of popular job fields. Certification and degree courses are available in most of the state's fastest-growing industries (including healthcare and education), and can sometimes be completed in as little as two years or less.

Visit the link below to search for trade schools in Texas and more!
https://www.findmytradeschool.com/trade-schools/texas/
Helpful Resources When Researching Post Secondary Education Opportunities

College for All Texans


Explore the College for All Texans Website for helpful information on Post-Secondary Education Opportunities! You’ll find Planning Tools for preparing for Post-Secondary Education Opportunities, the Military and Adult Learning Opportunities!

Explore-Work (WINTAC)

Explore-work.com

• Series of web-based modules that align with the five required Pre-Employment Transition Services activities that will help students:
  • Discover talents and jobs that may be a good fit for you!
  • Get experience and try out jobs right now!
  • Uncover education and training options to help you meet your job goals.
  • Learn about self-advocacy or how to ask for and get things you need.
  • Get skills to help you succeed at work and school.
  • Available in Spanish

https://explore-work.com/
Career One-Stop – Find Training at a Glance

- Provides information on how to get started finding the right training, the different types of training, how to pay for training, and finding your right path.
- Easy to navigate
- Explore Colleges
- Search for schools by keyword and location through the Local Training Finder
- Web Developer, Texas – 1,843 training programs in US/25 programs in Texas
- School name/location – Richland College/Dallas, TX
- Program Name – Web Page Program or Digital/Multimedia and Information Resources Design
- Length of Program – 2 years for Web Page Program/1.5 years for Multimedia Design
- Graduates of Program – 10 from Web Page Design/35 from Multimedia Design

https://www.careeronestop.org/FindTraining/find-training.aspx

Texas Genuine

Explore career fields and the college programs that get you there!
http://www.texasgenuine.org/career-and-technical-education
Programs Designed for Your Success
See what students and graduates think about CTE

Not Sure of Your Career Interests? Take the TEXASgenuine assessment and Find Your Future

myFUTURE – College Resources

myFUTURE.com - College

Resources are divided into 4 main sections
- Planning – HS transcripts and how to request a reference, steps to take at each grade level to be prepared, understanding which college entrance exams/tests to take, and testing tips
- Applying – choosing a college, the college application process, campus visit tips, writing a college essay, and college interview tips
- Paying – understanding your options for covering the cost of tuition, books, etc., tips for selecting a school that is covered by financial assistance, and tips to ensure your application for financial aid is correct
- Attending – what to bring to college, and preparing for all of the new experiences that come with starting a new school.

https://myfuture.com/college
In 2008, the Higher Education Opportunity Act (HEOA) for the first time provided access to financial aid to students with intellectual disability attending college programs that meet the requirements of a “Comprehensive Transition Program” (CTP). The legislation emphasizes participation in inclusive college courses and internships and requires the students to be socially and academically integrated to the maximum extent possible. CTPs are designed for postsecondary students with intellectual disabilities to continue academic, career and technical, and independent living instruction in order to prepare for employment.

While the legislation did not mandate that colleges offer programs, it did provide grants to create or expand model Transition and Postsecondary Programs for Students with Intellectual Disability (TPSIDs), as well as funding for the national coordinating center, Think College, based out of the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

Learn why inclusive postsecondary education is important (and possible!) for students with intellectual disabilities, how to find the right program, how to prepare, and how to stay involved and supportive throughout their journey. You can find even more information at https://www.pacer.org/transition/learning-center/postsecondary/college-options.asp
Comprehensive Transition Programs in Texas

Currently, Aggie ACHIEVE at Texas A&M University and ELEVAR at the University of North Texas are the only accredited Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) in the State of Texas, however, there are many options available for students with significant and intellectual disabilities to participate in college programs across Texas and the US. Information on these programs are listed below. This information can also be found on the Think College Website through the College Search feature (https://thinkcollege.net/college-search), which will allow you to access information on almost 300 programs in the United State. Take a look at the upcoming Open Houses in the events section!

Aggie ACHIEVE - Texas A&M University (College Station) - CTP Accredited
https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/

ACC STEPS - Austin Community College
http://austincc.wixsite.com/accsteps

E4Texas - University of Texas at Austin
https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/e4texas

Green Oaks Life Prep - Arlington Baptist University
https://www.greenoaksinc.org/programs/green-oaks-life-prep.cfm

lifePATH Montgomery - Lone Star College Montgomery (Conroe & Tomball)
http://www.lonestar.edu/lifePATH.htm

Texas A&M PATHS - Texas A&M University (College Station)
http://paths.tamu.edu

Project Access - Palo Alto College (San Antonio)
http://www.alamo.edu/pac/dss

STRIVE - Alvin Community College
http://www.alvincollege.edu/CEWD/Vocational-Training

TU CASA - Texas A&M University San Antonio

UNT ELEVAR - University of North Texas (Denton) - CTP Accredited
https://coe.unt.edu/elevar

UT Informal Classes - The University of Texas at Austin
https://informal.utexas.edu/adults-intellectual-and-developmental-disabilities

VAST Academy - Houston Community College
http://VAST.hccs.edu

Where the Learning Continues (WTLC) - West Texas A&M University (Canyon)
http://wtamu.edu/wtlc
To make an appointment, contact:
Giovanni Pelini
Transitional VR Counselor
giovanni.pelini@twc.state.tx.us
(737) 577-1386

OR

Erika Musick-Griffin
Transition Specialist, LTISD
musicke@ltisdschools.org
(512) 533-6153

Who Can Help Me with Post Secondary Education Opportunities Exploration?
- Your family
- Your Case Manager
- Your LTHS Counselor
- Your Teachers
- Your Texas Workforce Counselor
- The LTISD Transition Specialist

When Should I Start Researching Post-Secondary Education Opportunities??
- Now! There’s no time like the present!

Some resources adapted from September 2020 Webinar presented by NTACT and WINTACT: Counseling on Opportunities for Enrollment in Comprehensive Transition or Post-Secondary Educational Programs at Institutions of Higher Education Pre-Employment Transition Service
Not Quite Ready to Jump into Post-Secondary Education after your senior year?

Maybe Project SEARCH is the right fit for you!

What is Project Search?

Project SEARCH’s primary objective is to secure competitive employment for people with disabilities. Project SEARCH is driven by collaboration with many community partners: Baylor Scott and White Hospital - Lakeway, Lake Travis ISD, Easterseals, and Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services. It is a one year program that follows the Lake Travis ISD school year, consists of individuals with a variety of disabilities, includes 3 internship rotations, and provides consistent on-site staff.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Students who desire to work competitively at the conclusion of the Project SEARCH program.
2. Students 18 – 21 age range
3. Student has a documented disability under IDEA.
4. Students who have finished their necessary credits for graduation, and have not received a high school diploma.
5. Students eligible for TWSVRS (Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services).
6. Students who do not have a criminal record and severe behavioral problems.
7. Pass a background check and drug screen.
8. Students who will benefit from career exploration by participation in a variety of internships.
9. Provide own transportation to and from Scott & White Hospital.
10. Maintain independent hygiene and grooming skills.

What is the application process?

♦ Talk to your teachers, case managers, family to make sure this program is right for you.
♦ Tour Scott&White Hospital
♦ Students: Applications open 01/05/22
♦ Complete the application with your family & teacher (Applications Available: 1/5/2022, Deadline: 03/01/22)
♦ Complete an interview with the Project SEARCH Committee (2/10/2022 or 3/10/2022)

ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED & SUBMITTED TOGETHER
NO LATER THAN March 1, 2022

☐ Completed Application Packet
☐ Student Contract
☐ Project SEARCH Parent Transition Survey
☐ Baylor Scott & White Behavior Standards

Questions? Contact us to learn more:

Kristin Curtis
Project SEARCH Teacher
(512) 639-9119
curtisk@ltisdschools.org

Erika Musick-Griffin
LTISD Transition Specialist
(512) 533-6153
musicke@ltisdschools.org
College Campus Visits

College Visits are back on Campus! Juniors & Seniors should go to the College Visits Calendar to register for those Universities they wish to attend. Students will need to log in to the LTHS website (User Options top right of page, enter their own username/password). We are updating the Calendar daily so students are encouraged to check back frequently. Having trouble registering? Contact the Counseling Office.

New Virtual Tours Bring College Access into Focus

A partnership between the Coalition for College and Adora by Full Measure helps students virtually explore colleges committed to access, affordability and colleges that use the Coalition Application. You can view the collection of tours here. Tours are added frequently, so you may want to bookmark this link for your convenience.

ACC Announces Return of Campus Tours

Interested in checking out Highland, Round Rock or Riverside campuses? Request a tour!! Tours last up to 90 minutes and will give an overview of student services and resources. At the end of the tour, they even offer hands-on application assistance to help students start their application to ACC. REQUEST YOUR CAMPUS TOUR today!

2022-2023 FAFSA Is Open

The 2022-2023 FASFA opened on October 1, 2021. Have questions about deadlines or applying? Click HERE for more helpful information.

The College Board Opportunity Scholarships

This program offers nearly $5 million each year to reward your efforts to plan and pay for college. The program is currently open to the class 2022. You can even earn a chance at a $500 scholarship for completing the FASFA. The College Board Opportunity Scholarships provides a clearer path to planning and paying for college. Find out more here.

SENIORS: CLASS OF 2022

It's time to order your cap and gown - make sure to order yours today. Also, did you know registration for Senior photos has begun? You can find information on these upcoming milestones and more on the LTHS Senior Events page. November Senior video Link
Upcoming Event:

**Government Benefits 101 For your Special Needs Family Member**

**DATE/TIME:** Thurs., Nov. 18, 2021, at 12:00 noon Central  
**DESCRIPTION:** Need help navigating the social security administration? Come hear from Allison Schaberg, a Special Needs Financial Planner and National Social Security Advisor, as she helps you think through the complexities of Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.  
**PARTNER:** Partners Resource Network - Region 13  
**WEBINAR ID:** 873 0675 6654  
**REGISTER HERE:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mMy5ZascTzG-aSlk9LFRWw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_mMy5ZascTzG-aSlk9LFRWw)

**Transitions - Tips for Launching your Special Needs Teen into Adulthood**

**DATE/TIME:** Tues., Nov. 30, 2021, at 6:30 pm  
**DESCRIPTION:** As children with special needs transition to the teen and young adult years, their needs change significantly. You can prepare your child and yourselves for a successful transition to independence. Allison Schaberg, Special Needs Financial Planner, will help you understand the key steps you can take to make the transition as smooth as possible.  
**PARTNER:** This event is hosted by Fort Bend ADDA-SR Parent Support Group.  
**REGISTER HERE:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fk1LoznEQvKbKpjnTf22Cw](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_fk1LoznEQvKbKpjnTf22Cw)

**Upcoming Event:**

https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/

Aggie ACHIEVE at Texas A&M University is a four-year comprehensive transition program (CTP) for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who have exited high school. Aggie ACHIEVE provides an inclusive and immersive college education and equips students for employment in the community. Aggie ACHIEVE aligns coursework, internship opportunities, and extracurricular activities with each student’s academic interests and employment goals. Students reside in Texas A&M residence halls and have access to all campus-related activities. Aggie ACHIEVE students will graduate with a Certificate in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University.

If you are interested in learning more about Aggie ACHIEVE and whether it would be right for you and your family, please attend an open house event. Open houses are a great way to visit with Aggie ACHIEVE and learn more about the admission requirements. In addition, this will also give you an opportunity to meet current students and staff. Due to COVID-19, we are unable to host on campus open houses at this time. However, we have two virtual open houses scheduled that you can attend. Please use the link below to sign up for one of the open houses: [https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/](https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/) If you are unable to attend, you can watch the recordings on our [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) at any time!

**Recording of Virtual Open House:** [https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/](https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/)

- For entry into Fall 2022, applicants must complete an online application. Applications will be electronic and will be posted on October 1, 2021. To complete an application for Fall 2022, please visit [https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/](https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/)
- Aggie ACHIEVE follows the Texas A&M University deadlines for applications. Deadline for admissions for Fall 2022 is December 1, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (CST). They will not accept applications after this time.
- There is a $30 application fee that is nonrefundable. Application fees can be paid through the linked button on the application website.
- **Before starting the application, please review the [FAQ section](https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/admissions/aggieachieve.tamu.edu/about/#faq) for additional information, including the eligibility requirements and financial fees.**
Upcoming Event:
https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/e4texas

E4Texas is a post-secondary opportunity for people with or without a disability, who are over the age of 18, who have a high school diploma, and are employment-focused. The E4Texas 3-semester experience combines classroom instruction with practical career building experiences, independent living skills, and self-determination. During the course, students will learn the main aspects of independent living, will receive their caretaker certification, and will be supported as they find jobs in their final semester.

E4Texas has four goals:
1. Empower Texans to become self-determined & independent.
2. Educate Texans to gain employment, professional, and independent living skills.
3. Employ Texans in the areas of caregiving.
4. Give Texans the tools they need to excel in life!

E4Texas is a tuition-based program. Students who are current customers with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) may qualify for assistance with tuition. Contact your TWC counselor to get more information on qualifications. If you are not a TWC customer, you can contact them to inquire about registering as a customer.

Applications currently open at this link, Open House Information listed below:
Thursday, November 18 2021 at 7pm CST. To register click here.

Upcoming Event:
https://elevar.unt.edu/

UNT ELEVAR (Empower, Learn, Excel, enVision, Advance, Rise) is a high-quality and self-sustaining, four-year inclusive postsecondary education program model for young adults with intellectual disabilities (ID). The program’s vision is to empower young adults with ID who wish to continue post-secondary education to become self-determined, independent, and healthy adults readied for integrated competitive employment. As the first Hispanic serving institution to house an inclusive postsecondary education program in Texas, UNT ELEVAR will strive to facilitate natural and culturally responsive individual supports and services for students with ID from diverse and underrepresented communities through an inclusive college experience across academics, employment, community engagement, health, and well-being. UNT ELEVAR holds a Comprehensive Transition Program (CTP) accreditation through the U.S. Department of Education.

Interested in learning more about UNT ELEVAR and are ready to tour the campus? We invite you to attend one of our Open Houses and complete a traditional UNT Campus Tour. Campus tours are a great way to learn about the full UNT experience as our students will be fully included in all college campus activities!

Upcoming Open House Dates:
● Saturday, December 4 (10 am)

To register for one of our monthly Open Houses, please visit: https://bit.ly/3gehJW4
To register for a Traditional UNT Campus Tour, please visit: https://tours.unt.edu/signup/student

Application Information can be found at https://elevar.unt.edu/admissions
● Applications Open December 1
● Applications Close February 1
Upcoming Event:

INDIVIDUALS WITH AN INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY
DO YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE?

SOONER WORKS
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

2021 INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS
Meetings via Zoom
Program Overview with Q&A

Available Dates:
Sunday 11/14/21 6:00-7:30
Sunday 12/5/21 6:00-7:30

APPLICATION RELEASED 10/15/2021
EARLY ADMISSION DEADLINE 12/1/2021
REGULAR ADMISSIONS DEADLINE 2/1/2022

REGISTER AT:
https://tinyurl.com/swinformational

Helpful Transition Resource:

Parent to Parent - Transition Timeline & Planning Tools
For more information, go to txp2p.org, or attend a FREE Pathways to Adulthood Webinar
Adapted from the Texas Parent to Parent Website, September 2021

Transition Timeline, starting at age 6
Transition Inventory, a tool to assess where families are in planning for their youth's adulthood

Weekly Parent Support Group
Zoom Support Group Calls (in English)
- Wednesdays at 11:00 am
- Hosted by Patty Geisinger
- Click here to register

Zoom Support Group Calls (in Spanish)
- Wednesdays at 1:00 pm
- Hosted by Rosalba Calleros
- Click here to register
Helpful Transition Resource:

Texas state ID card / Driver’s License - Texas Department of Public Safety

Obtaining a state ID or driver license prior to graduation will assist your student in many ways as they take the next steps in life! If your child does not plan on obtaining their Driver’s License, it is strongly recommended that they obtain their Texas ID Card prior to, or when, turning 18. Please take a look at the information below for more information:

Texas Department of Public Safety Driver’s License / ID Website:
https://www.dps.texas.gov/DriverLicense/

Guide for First Time Driver’s License / ID Applicants:
https://www.dps.texas.gov/Internetforms/Forms/DL-100E.pdf

How to apply for a Texas Identification Card:
https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/applyforid.htm

Take a look at this brochure for more information:

Helpful Transition Resource Website:

Federal Programs for People with Disabilities
https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability

Eligible people with disabilities may qualify for federal and state programs that pay benefits, pay health care costs or provide food. If you are not already signed up for one of these programs, visit the sites below to find out if you might be eligible or to apply for benefits.

What is CLASS?
https://hhs.texas.gov/doing-business-hhs/provider-portals/long-term-care-providers/community-living-assistance-support-services-class

CLASS provides home- and community-based services to people with related conditions as a cost-effective alternative to placement in an intermediate care facility for individuals with an intellectual disability or a related condition. A related condition is a disability, other than an intellectual disability, that originated before age 22 and that affects a person's ability to function in daily life.

Interested in receiving CLASS services?
Those interested in receiving CLASS are placed on an interest list by calling 877-438-5658 and asking for the CLASS Waiver Program. The person will be contacted when funding becomes available. An offer of the CLASS Program depends on individual need and one's date of placement on the interest list. Current contact information is required for each person on the CLASS interest list, and HHSC must be notified of any changes to address or telephone number.

For more information please contact CLASSPolicy@HHSC.state.tx.us

Helpful Transition Resource Website:

Austin Travis County Integral Care (formerly known as MHMR)
https://integralcare.org

Integral Care supports adults and children living with mental illness, substance use disorder and intellectual and developmental disabilities in Travis County. As the Local Mental Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Authority, Integral Care strengthens our community by supporting our most important asset, our people, to achieve well-being. Integral Care provides individuals with high quality mental health care, collaborates with community partners to strengthen programs and systems, and works to raise awareness of mental health issues in our community.

Integral Care works with children and adults living with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to make sure they have the tools they need to thrive. We create opportunities for people to form healthy relationships, live in the community and lead meaningful lives. Services are available regardless of ability to pay and can be provided in many languages.

CALL US TO LEARN HOW WE CAN HELP YOU
To learn more about our programs and services for adults and children with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, call us at 512-472-HELP (4357). Press 1 for English, then 3. We’re here Monday through Friday, from 8am to 5pm. Integral Care can also connect you to trusted community resources.
The Arc of the Capital Area is one of the oldest continuously-operating non-profits in Austin. Since 1949 we have empowered adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We serve over 1,000 individuals each year across 17 counties. Intellectual and developmental disabilities or I/DD is an umbrella term that includes more than 100 different diagnoses, including Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and Autism.

Intake & Referral Services
The Arc of the Capital Area offers a centralized telephone intake process for all of our services and programs. Please contact us at 512.476.7044, ext. 233, and an Intake Specialist will return your call within three (3) business days. Normal working hours are 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The first step is a brief screening to determine eligibility for services and, if so, which services would best meet the callers’ needs. The Intake Specialist will refer callers to other disability organizations and resources in the community, if appropriate.

ARCIL (A Resource Center for Independent Living)
http://arcilinc.org/
ARCIL is a consumer-driven, community-based, not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the empowerment of persons with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and equal community access. Services are developed, directed and delivered primarily by persons with disabilities. ARCIL contributes to the development and improvement of attitudes, resources, methodologies, and opportunities for community integration.

Historically, ARCIL has developed programs that provide services in information & referral, peer counseling, independent living skills training and advocacy. Other ARCIL services are in the areas of transition services from school to adult life, transportation training, employment assistance, community education through ADA technical assistance and disability awareness training.

Autism Society of Greater Austin
https://www.texasautismsociety.org/
The Autism Society, the nation’s leading grassroots autism organization, exists to improve the lives of all affected by autism. We do this by increasing public awareness about the day-to-day issues faced by people on the spectrum, advocating for appropriate services for individuals across the lifespan, and providing the latest information regarding treatment, education, research and advocacy.

The Autism Society of Texas changes lives by connecting families and individuals to community resources and support throughout Texas. Offerings include advocacy, education events, Information & Referrals, support meetings; on-line networking opportunities; Sensory Friendly films; and fun family activities. We rely on donations to support our work and keep services free for families and autistic adults.

Down Syndrome Association of Central Texas
http://dsact.org/
Our Mission is to provide education, support, and resources to individuals with Down syndrome, their families, professionals, and the community while building public awareness and acceptance of the abilities of individuals with Down syndrome. Our Vision is a world in which all members, including those with Down syndrome, are accepted, valued for their uniqueness, respected for their abilities and contributions, and assured the opportunity and choice to create their own path to fulfillment and success.
Governor Abbott and the Texas Education Agency (TEA) have created a Supplementary Special Education Services (SSES) program. The SSES program allows eligible families of children with disabilities to apply for a one-time $1,500 online grant to be used to obtain educational materials and resources and/or services such as additional speech therapy or other specific services. The goods and services offered can help families mitigate educational setbacks resulting from the disruptions to education prompted by COVID-19.

If approved for the program, you will have access to a ClassWallet-managed online portal and a digital spending account which you can use with providers that have been vetted and approved by TEA. The portal will provide information on available resources and services, allow you to make purchases, and provide you with full account and balance information. The SSES online account enables you to shop for educational products (learning supplies and or technology for your child) and services (therapies, tutoring, and other supports) in an online digital marketplace and used to supplement what otherwise happens in school to help students continue to make educational progress. These funds do not impact or change any services provided through your child’s school IEP. These are separate funds provided by the state through the marketplace to families.

If you believe that your student may qualify for the SSES program, then complete the following steps.:

**Step 1:** Go to: [SSES.tea.texas.gov](http://SSES.tea.texas.gov) Click on “Apply Today”. Check the applicable eligibility items and select “Apply Today”.

**Step 2:** Application will be reviewed and notice of eligibility or denial may take up to 30 business days.

**Step 3:** If eligible, you will be notified and a link to the SSES marketplace will be emailed to you from info@ClassWallet. Please check your spam/junk folder if you have not received this email.

**Step 4:** You can then login and shop for educational services for your child. You must login and sign the parental affidavit within 30-days and begin spending money within 6-months of receiving an account.

Some examples of things you can purchase through the SSES Marketplace:
- Tutoring for all subjects or other educational related services (OT, PT, BCBA, SLP, etc.)
- Textbooks, curriculum, instructional materials, educational hardware/software or technology

**SSES Resources:**
- Webinar for Parents - How to Apply: [ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#)
- SSES Overview: [ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#)
- What is SSES? [ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#)
- How to use ClassWallet - Step by Step Instructions: [ENGLISH](#) | [SPANISH](#)

If you have additional questions or need help:

**SSES Contact** ssesinfo@tea.texas.gov or call SPEDTex at 1-855-773-3839

**Local Contact:** Amanda Molina-Garza, Special Services Coordinator, molinagarzaa@ltisdchools.org or 512-533-6460
Program Overview: Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES)

Your student may be eligible for a $1,500 grant!

Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) is:

SSES gives a $1,500 one-time online grant to parents of eligible students served by special education who are enrolled in a Texas public school. Families can use this money to purchase educational goods and services for their student.

SSES Eligibility Criteria:

This new eligibility criteria will begin on November 1st, 2021.

To be eligible for the SSES grant, students must currently be:

» enrolled in a Texas public school,
» enrolled in PreK - 12th grade, and
» a student with a disability served through Special Education.

What your family can purchase:

With SSES accounts, families are able to purchase educational goods and services from the SSES marketplace.

Educational goods such as:

Books  Laptop  Tablet

Services such as:

Tutoring  Therapy

This is a first come, first serve grant. There are a limited number of accounts available, if you believe your student is eligible, we encourage you to apply today!

For more information and to apply, visit: SSES.tea.texas.gov
Medicaid Waiver Programs - Information

Medicaid waivers allow older adults, people with disabilities, or medical/emotional needs to live at home, rather than in nursing homes or other institutions. Waivers provide services such as behavior support, adaptive aids, medical supplies, respite care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, minor home modifications, nursing, specialized therapies, pre-vocational training, supported employment, transition assistance, and others. The services provided vary by waiver. Texas has 7 waivers, each with an interest list. Your child can be on multiple interest lists at one time but can only receive services from one waiver at a time.

**Most waivers have a 15+ year wait for services, so it is important to get on interest lists as soon as possible.**

**Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS):** Services/supports for people with related conditions other than intellectual disability/mental health that began before age 22 and are not expected to improve. Examples include autism, cerebral palsy, seizures, spina bifida, and others. The disability must affect 3 or more of the following areas: self-care, understanding and use of language, learning, mobility, self-direction, or capacity for independent living. There is no age limit for this waiver.

**Deaf Blind with Multiple Disabilities (DBMD):** Services/supports for people who are legally deaf-blind or have a condition that will lead to becoming legally deaf-blind in the future; plus at least one other disability that affects independent functioning. There is no age limit for this waiver.

**Medically Dependent Children’s Program (MDCP):** Services/supports for families caring for a young adult at home who would otherwise require care in a nursing home. Recipients must be under 21 years old. If under 18, they must be living with an adult family member or legal foster family.

**STAR+PLUS Home and Community Based Services (HCBS):** Managed care program for people who meet medical necessity criteria for nursing home care and are at risk for being placed in a nursing home. Allows recipients to get both acute and long term services at home. Recipients must be age 21 or older.

Call 1-877-438-5658 to place your child on the CLASS, DBMD, MDCP, AND HCBS interest lists.

**Home & Community Based Services (HCS):** Services/supports for people with intellectual disability (ID) or related conditions who live with family members, in their own homes, or group homes with 4 beds or less. Services like day habilitation, respite, nursing, employment provided. There is no age limit for this waiver.

**Texas Home Living (TxHmL):** Services to people with an intellectual disability (ID) or a related condition who live in their own home or their family’s home. Services include adaptive aids, behavioral support, community support, day habilitation (help with development of basic life skills), employment assistance, minor home modifications, nursing, respite, professional therapies, supported employment, and others. There is no age limit for this waiver.

Call Integral Care (ATCIC) at 512-472-HELP (4357) to place your child on the HCS and TxHmL interest lists.

**Youth Empowerment Services (YES):** Services/supports for people who experience mental/emotional/behavioral issues to reduce time in psychiatric hospitals, allowing recipients to stay at home and in their community. Recipients must be 3-18 years old for this waiver.

Call the YES Waiver Inquiry Line at 1-512-804-3191 to place your child on the YES interest list.

You may have to leave a message saying, “I’d like to put my child on the inquiry list.” Once you leave your contact information, someone should call you back within a couple of days.

**IMPORTANT!** Once your child is on the interest list(s) you MUST call and update any changes to your phone number and address immediately. Many parents call each waiver interest list around their child’s birthday to ensure they still have the correct contact information and let them know you want your child’s name to remain on the interest lists.

Questions? Reach out to Erika Musick-Griffin, LTISD Transition Specialist - musicke@ltisdschools.org

Information for this flyer was obtained from the Navigate Life Texas website. Visit www.navigatefortexas.org for additional information on Medicaid Waivers.
Programas de exención de Medicaid - Información

Las exenciones de Medicaid permiten que los adultos mayores, las personas con discapacidades o las necesidades médicas / emocionales vivan en casa, en lugar de en hogares de ancianos u otras instituciones. Las exenciones brindan servicios tales como apoyo conductual, ayudas adaptativas, suministros médicos, cuidado de relevo, terapia ocupacional, terapia física, terapia del habla, modificaciones menores en el hogar, enfermería, terapias especializadas, capacitación prevocacional, empleo con apoyo, asistencia de transición y otros. Los servicios brindados varían según la exención. Texas tiene 7 exenciones, cada una con una lista de intereses. Su hijo puede estar en varias listas de intereses a la vez, pero solo puede recibir servicios de una exención a la vez.

La mayoría de las exenciones tienen más de 15 años de espera por los servicios, por lo que es importante obtener listas de interés lo antes posible.

Servicios de apoyo y asistencia para vivir en la comunidad (CLASS por sus siglas in inglés): servicios/apoyos para personas con afecciones distintas a la discapacidad intelectual/salud mental que comenzaron antes de los 22 años y que probablemente no terminen. Los ejemplos incluyen autismo, parálisis cerebral, convulsiones, espina bífida y otros. La discapacidad debe afectar 3 o más de las siguientes áreas: autocuidado, comprensión y uso del lenguaje, aprendizaje, movilidad, autodirección o capacidad de vida independiente. No hay límite de edad para esta exención.

Personas sordo ciegas con discapacidades múltiples (DBMD por sus siglas in inglés): servicios/apoyos para personas que son legalmente auditiva y visual o que tienen una condición que las llevará a ser legalmente auditiva y visual en el futuro; más al menos otra discapacidad que afecta el funcionamiento independiente. No hay límite de edad para esta exención.

Programa de niños médicamente dependientes (MDCP por sus siglas in inglés): servicios/apoyos para familias que cuidan a un adulto joven en el hogar que de otra manera necesitaría atención en un hogar de ancianos. El destinatario debe ser menor de 21 años. Si es menor de 18 años, debe vivir con un miembro adulto de la familia o una familia adoptiva legal.

Programa de servicios en el hogar y en la comunidad STAR + PLUS (HCBS por sus siglas in inglés): programa de atención administrada para personas que cumplen con los criterios de necesidad médica para el cuidado en un hogar de ancianos y están en riesgo de ser colocados en un hogar de ancianos. Permite a los destinatarios recibir servicios tanto agudos como a largo plazo en el hogar. Los destinatarios deben tener 21 años o más.

Llame al 1-877-438-5658 para ubicar a su hijo en las listas de interés de CLASS, DBMD, MDCP Y HCBS

Programa de servicios en el hogar y en la comunidad (HCS por sus siglas in inglés): servicios/apoyos para personas con discapacidad intelectual (ID) o afecciones relacionadas que viven con miembros de la familia, en sus propios hogares o hogares grupales con 4 camas o menos. No hay límite de edad para esta exención.

Programa de Texas para Vivir en Casa (TxHmL por sus siglas in inglés): Servicios a personas con una discapacidad intelectual (ID) o una condición relacionada que viven en su propio hogar o en el de sus familias. Los servicios incluyen: ayudas adaptativas, apoyo conductual, apoyo comunitario, habilitación diurna (ayuda con el desarrollo de habilidades básicas para la vida), asistencia laboral, modificaciones menores en el hogar, enfermería, relevo, terapias profesionales, empleo con apoyo, y otros. No hay límite de edad para esta exención.

Llame a Integral Care (ATCIC) al 512-472-4357 para ubicar a su hijo en las listas de interés de HCS y TxHmL.

Programa de la Exención de Empoderamiento de los Jóvenes (YES por sus siglas in inglés): servicios/apoyos para personas que experimentan problemas mentales/emocionales/de comportamiento para reducir el tiempo en hospitales psiquiátricos, permitiendo que los beneficiarios se queden en casa y en su comunidad. Los destinatarios deben tener entre 3 y 18 años para esta exención.

Llame a la línea de consulta de exención de YES al 1-844-309-6385 para colocar a su hijo en la lista de intereses de YES.

Es posible que deba dejar un mensaje que diga: "Me gustaría incluir a mi hijo en la lista de consultas". Una vez que deje su información de contacto, alguien deberá devolverle la llamada dentro de un par de días.

¡IMPORTANTEN! Una vez que su hijo esté en la(s) lista(s) de interés, DEBE llamar y actualizar cualquier cambio en su número de teléfono y dirección de inmediato. Muchos padres llaman a cada lista de interés de exención alrededor del cumpleaños de su hijo para asegurarse de que todavía tengan la información de contacto correcta y sepan que desea que el nombre de su hijo permanezca en la lista de interesados.

¿Preguntas? Comuníquese con Erika Musick-Griffin, especialista en transición de LTISD: musicke@ltisdschools.org

La información para este folleto se obtuvo del sitio web de Navigate Life Texas. Visite www.navigatelife_texas.org para obtener información adicional sobre las exenciones de Medicaid.
Save the Date! In Person Event!

Saturday, March 5, 2022

Round Rock High School
201 Deep Wood Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681

Destination...LIFE
Regional Transition Fair & Conference

preparing/supporting students with disabilities and their families for life beyond high school

Hosted by 10+ Area School Districts
Hosted by multiple area school districts!
Job Training! Post-Secondary Education! Living Options! Resources!
Speaker Sessions, Multiple Vendors, Community Agencies & Organizations

Questions? Contact Erika Musick- Griffin, LTISD Transition Specialist
musicke@ltisdschools.org 512-533-6153
¡Reserva la fecha! ¡Evento en persona!

Sábado, 5 de marzo

Round Rock High School
201 Deep Wood Dr, Round Rock, TX 78681

Destino...LA VIDA

Feria y Conferencia de Transición Regional

Preparando y apoyando a estudiantes con discapacidades y sus familias para la vida después de la preparatoria

Organizado por varios distritos escolares del área
¡Capacitación de empleo! ¡Educación después de la preparatoria!
¡Opciones de vivienda! ¡Recursos!

Presentaciones, varios proveedores, agencias de la comunidad y organizaciones

Preguntas: Erika Musick-Griffin, Especialista en transición de Lake Travis ISD
musicke@ltisdschools.org  (512) 533-6153