October’s Transition Focus is on Career Planning & Job Exploration

Career Planning & Job Exploration is one way to find out about multiple career options. During the different phases of exploration, students take part in a variety of activities that can assist in figuring out their unique interests, skills, and talents. Students who have this knowledge are better prepared to identify next steps in post-secondary schooling or other means leading to a future career.

LTISD is partnering with Eanes ISD to present virtual information sessions with our Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor on October 26th and 28th. Take a look at the details shared in this month’s newsletter and plan on attending to learn more about how TWS VR can support your student!

(adapted from Texas Workforce Solutions, Explore Career presentation, November 2020).
**Career Exploration**
(adapted from Texas Workforce Solutions, Explore Career presentation, November 2020)

**Why is Career Exploration Important?**
- Career exploration is an important tool in helping to find a desired career.
- The steps students take in career exploration can help guide in making positive, well informed education and career decisions.

**How Do I Explore Different Careers?**
*Take a look at the resources below to help begin your Career Planning & Job Exploration!*

**Labor Market and Career Information Page** [https://lmci.state.tx.us/](https://lmci.state.tx.us/)
- Texas Workforce Solutions provides data through the Labor Market and Career Information Page. This is a suite of easy to use labor market research tools that provides time series labor market data and inquiry capabilities for labor force, employment/unemployment estimates, industry and occupational projections, and occupational wage data.
- Check out the how to navigate videos at [https://texaslmi.com/Help/Materials](https://texaslmi.com/Help/Materials)

**Jobs Y'all** [https://jobsyall.com/](https://jobsyall.com/)
- Anything is possible – that’s what Jobs Y’all is all about. Jobs Y’all is where you can explore good-paying and meaningful careers in growing industries. Here, you’ll discover rewarding and satisfying jobs right in your hometown or elsewhere in Texas. Find the career that matches your interests and goals. Your career starts here.

**Texas Career Check** [https://texascareercheck.com/](https://texascareercheck.com/)
- Texas Career Check provides information specific to Texas on various jobs, education requirements, expected duties, average pay and job growth.
- Within Texas Career Check, you can learn about occupational trends - what types of jobs are needed statewide or in your region
- Occupational Information - If you have ever wondered, “Is that a job?” - this is a great place to start!
- Military Occupations - If you are interested in serving in the military, this page provides a breakdown of what branches offer specific career paths.
- Comparing Occupations - Are you interested in two different jobs? Compare them with this awesome tool!
O*NET Online  https://www.onetonline.org
- The O*NET Program is the nation's primary source of occupational information. Valid data are essential to understanding the rapidly changing nature of work and how it impacts the workforce and U.S. economy. From this information, applications are developed to facilitate the development and maintenance of a skilled workforce.
- Central to the project is the O*NET database, containing hundreds of standardized and occupation-specific descriptors on almost 1,000 occupations covering the entire U.S. economy. The database, which is available to the public at no cost, is continually updated from input by a broad range of workers in each occupation.
- O*NET information is used by millions of individuals every year, including those taking advantage of O*NET Online, My Next Move, and other publicly and privately developed applications. The data have proven vital in helping people find the training and jobs they need, and employers the skilled workers necessary to be competitive in the marketplace.
- The Occupational Information Network (O*NET) is developed under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Labor/Employment and Training Administration (USDOL/ETA) through a grant to the North Carolina Department of Commerce.

Roadtrip Nation  https://roadtripnation.com/
- Career exploration that starts with your interests.
- See how people like you found work that they love.
- Whether you're exploring new career paths or looking for inspiration, find the guidance you need from the stories of others.

Texas Reality Check  https://texasrealitycheck.com/
- Will you be able to afford the lifestyle you want?
- It's difficult to predict the future, but it's never too early to start planning for it. Texas Reality Check will show you how much your living expenses will cost, and the amount of money you will need to earn to pay for them.

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

When Should I Start My Career Exploration?
- Now! There's no time like the present!
October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month!

This year’s theme is “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion”

Read the Presidential Proclamation.

The theme for NDEAM 2021, “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion,” reflects the importance of ensuring that people with disabilities have full access to employment and community involvement during the national recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

NDEAM is held each October to commemorate the many and varied contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy. Browse our website for ideas and resources for employers, community organizations, state and local governments, advocacy groups and schools to participate in celebrating NDEAM through events and activities centered around the theme of “America’s Recovery: Powered by Inclusion.”

From the October Autism Speaks Newsletter, E-Speaks:

Each October during National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), we take time to recognize the many contributions of people with disabilities to America’s workplaces and economy.

NDEAM provides the opportunity to educate people across the nation about disability employment issues, promote the power and importance of inclusion, and help foster a workplace where all employees are recognized for their unique abilities every day of the year.

In this month’s issue of E-Speaks, you’ll read about five autistic people’s employment journeys, learn how two women are working to drive disability inclusion in the workforce, and find resources that will give you the tools to plan for your future, search for a job and navigate the workplace.
In our own words: Why NDEAM is an important step towards building a more inclusive workplace

Hank, Annie, William, Mallory and Andy all have a range of passions, skills and challenges that have led them down very different career paths. In this series of profiles, they share their thoughts on employment, the job search experience, the challenges and triumphs they’ve experienced as autistic employees, the importance of inclusion in the workplace and much more!

Workplace Inclusion Now is creating meaningful job opportunities for all

Need help finding a job that's right for you? Or are you an employer looking to recruit dedicated and talented employees who you may have never considered before? Workplace Inclusion Now (WIN) is Autism Speaks’ evidence-based employment system designed to build and support inclusive workplace culture through a virtual training program. Click here to learn how WIN can help support your employment needs.

Autism Speaks’ Employment Tool Kit can help you find and keep the right job

Finding a job is a challenge for everyone, but our Employment Tool Kit can help people with autism research, apply for positions and navigate the workplace so they can thrive at work. In this Tool Kit, you'll find job-related stories, tips and information ranging in topic from navigating the job search to understanding your employment rights and creating workplace accommodations. Although this guide is written by and for people with autism, it can also be helpful for family members, service providers, business leaders and others supporting people with autism.

Transition Roadmap to meaningful employment

To help prepare people with autism and their families for the transition to adulthood, Autism Speaks is pleased to present the Transition Roadmap to Meaningful Employment. This Roadmap is a great resource for autistic students planning for life after high school, young autistic adults looking for information about employment and even parents or caregivers of a person with autism.
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. Check out each section for questions to ask yourself, as well as how to help build your self-determination skills!

Find the newly updated Texas Transition and Employment Guide online at: https://www.texastransition.org/apps/pages/texas-transition-and-employment-guide

Parents: If your child is identified with a developmental disability, put his or her name on an interest list until services are available, you can find more information about the interest list here https://hhs.texas.gov/about-hhs/records-statistics/interest-list-reduction. Please know that it may take years.
My life, my voice: Self-determination in career planning

- Dream big! Don’t let disability limit your imagination.
- Participate in transition assessments for employment. Be honest about what you like and don’t like.
- Discover what you do well and learn how to describe your strengths.
- Learn ways to describe your disability and what kinds of support work best for you to succeed in a job.
- Talk with trusted teachers and family about sharing disability information in the workplace.
- Choose some classes that will help you learn about careers or learn skills for the job you want.

If you are struggling to think of work you want to do in adulthood:
- Make a list of all the things you enjoy doing,
- Find out which jobs include some of those activities, and
- Talk with someone you trust about why it’s hard for you to think about a career

Spotlight on supports: Meet the TVRC

Did you know there is a Transition Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (TVRC) assigned to your campus? That’s right! A qualified VR counselor is assigned to every public school in Texas. The TVRC is employed by TWS-VRS, not by the school. Most TVRCs support many schools in multiple districts. Ask the TED for your district if you would like to schedule a meeting with the TVRC for your campus.

Your TVRC can:
- Attend ARD meetings and other meetings to plan for your transition to adulthood, such as Person-Centered Planning,
- Provide information about VR services and eligibility, including Pre-ETS,
- Refer students to other agencies that provide support for employment,
- Develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) for eligible students,
- Connect students with summer work experience programs, workshops, seminars, and other employment transition services, and
- Provide additional services to support a successful transition to employment for students with disabilities.

See the next page for questions to ask your TVRC.
Career Planning support from the Texas Transition and Employment Guide (page 18)

What if you want to know more about your career plan? First, see if you can find this information in your IEP. You, your family, or your supporter can always ask a member of your ARD committee for help to find the information. If you have more questions, reach out to the TED for your district. See the “Spotlight on Supports” on page 6 to learn more about the TED role.

Questions to ask your ARD committee

Where can I find information about planning for a career in my IEP?

Which graduation option is best for meeting my employment goal?

What classes are available on my campus that can help me prepare for a career? Are there any required prerequisite classes? Will I need any support in my classes?

What happens if I change my mind about the career I want?

Will I need support for my disability to be successful in my career?

What else can I do now to prepare for employment in adult life?

Are there agencies I should contact about employment services?

Who can I talk to if I have questions about planning for employment?

Questions to ask your TVRC

Am I eligible for Pre-ETS? What does “potentially eligible” mean for me?

What Pre-ETS would be helpful for me?

How is eligibility determined to receive VR services (now or as an adult)?

What is the application process to receive adult services through VR? When should I apply?

Will earning a paycheck affect any services I receive, such as SSI?

Who can I contact if I have more questions?
Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services supports people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain and advance in meaningful employment by providing a range of services based on an individual's employment goals. Our Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) counselors work closely with job seekers to determine an employment goal, and then identify and arrange for the high-quality services that lead to successful employment.

Texas Workforce Solutions provides Vocational Rehabilitation services for eligible individuals with disabilities. Join a virtual informational session to learn more about VR Services, Pre-Employment Services, Workplace Supports, Post-Secondary Education Supports and MORE!

**Informational Session**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 26th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 28th</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Meeting Link</th>
<th>Virtual Presentation Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, October 26th</td>
<td>11:00am or 5:30pm</td>
<td><a href="https://eanesisd.zoom.us/j/89714622025?pwd=UWFTTXVRMnFOM01rOHEzLzlyMFhFUT09">Join Zoom Meeting</a></td>
<td><a href="https://eanesisd.zoom.us/j/88631371053?pwd=dE9la0Vlc29hNkJHSjE1Wjc4c3ZJdz09">Join Zoom Meeting</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 28th</td>
<td>11:00am or 5:30pm</td>
<td><a href="https://eanesisd.zoom.us/j/89714622025?pwd=UWFTTXVRMnFOM01rOHEzLzlyMFhFUT09">Join Zoom Meeting</a></td>
<td><a href="https://eanesisd.zoom.us/j/88631371053?pwd=dE9la0Vlc29hNkJHSjE1Wjc4c3ZJdz09">Join Zoom Meeting</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please RSVP by completing this Google Form:

- For Post-Secondary Education programs: [https://forms.gle/H8oo8bQmW696RuAZ7](https://forms.gle/H8oo8bQmW696RuAZ7)
- For Workforce programs: [https://forms.gle/H8oo8bQmW696RuAZ7](https://forms.gle/H8oo8bQmW696RuAZ7)
Individual Parent/Student Meetings, **by appointment only**, Lake Travis High School B201

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LTHS</th>
<th>FOR ALL DATES What do I need to know?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **September 2021-May 2022** | ● To make an appointment, contact: Giovanni Pelini  
Transitional Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor  
giovanni.pelini@twc.state.tx.us  
(737) 577-1386  
OR  
Erika Musick-Griffin  
Transition Specialist, LTISD  
musicke@ltisdschools.org  
512-533-6153 |
| **Every Tuesday** | Case Managers/Transition Specialist will help with securing a pass for the student to attend their on-campus meeting(s). Please include them in the communication loop about scheduling. |
| **9:00 AM - 4:00 PM** | Currently, all TWS VR Meetings will be virtual. Students will work with their Case Manager or the Transition Specialist to secure a quiet location to log into the meeting. |
| **By Appointment Only** | For questions about how TWS and the public schools collaborate, or anything else related to post-secondary transition, contact: |
| | Erika Musick-Griffin  
Transition Specialist, LTISD  
musicke@ltisdschools.org  
512-533-6153 |
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](https://www.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@ltisdschools.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](SSES.tea.texas.gov)
College Campus Visits
Take a look at the upcoming College Campus Visits on the LTHS Counselor’s Website!
https://www.ltisdschools.org/Page/1396#calendar1844/20210920/month

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.

Hills of Austin College Fair & Virtual Fairs

Lake Travis will be participating in the Hills of Austin College Fair this year! On Wednesday, October 20th, we expect over 100 Colleges to attend our Campus!

All Juniors will be walked to the Fair with their 7th period teacher; Seniors can attend during their lunch period. Registration is recommended but not required.

The safety of our students and staff is very important to us. We will continue to monitor the COVID situation and update our protocol as needed.

Virtual College Fairs

In addition to our LTHS Fair, we wanted to share an opportunity for our students to attend Virtual Fairs as we learn of them. This provides flexibility and feasibility to explore colleges all over the United States as a student begins their college search. In addition, they can find on-line resources and even a direct path to an admissions counselor!

US Marine Corp Lunch Visit

On Wednesday, October 27th, a US Marine Corp Gunnery Sergeant will be back for one more visit this month. He will be in the Main Cafeteria during A, B & C lunches. Look for his table and stop by to learn more!

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.

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. October senior video Link
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

Pathways to Adulthood Training

Part 1: Getting Started On Transition / School And Career Exploration
  ● Tuesday, October 19th, 2021, 6:00pm-7:30pm
  ● Click here to register

Part 2: All About Long Term Services And Supports / Legal Planning For Age 18 And Beyond
  ● Thursday, October 21st, 2021, 6:00pm-7:30pm
  ● Click here to register

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

Upcoming Event:

DIVERSIFY AUSTIN

Job and Resource Webinar

Celebrate National Disability Awareness Month and explore your opportunities!

October 21, 2021
11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

• Discover local resources.
• Meet potential employers.
• Learn helpful employment tips.

This event is FREE to the public!
Register today tinyurl.com/diversifyaustin21

Presented by
Amerigroup

In partnership with the Texas Center for Disability Studies at The University of Texas at Austin, Peak Performers, and the Autism Society of Texas.

LTISD Transition Newsletter, October 2021
Upcoming Events:

Transitions - Tips for Launching your Special Needs Teen into Adulthood
DATE/TIME: Tues., Oct. 19, 2021, at 12:00 noon
As special needs children transition to the teen and young adult years, their needs change significantly. You can prepare your child (and yourself) for a successful transition to independence. This webinar will help you understand the key steps you can take to make the transition as smooth as possible.
Join us as Special Needs Financial Planner Allison Schaberg explains how to successfully plan for your future.
PARTNER: Partners Resource Network - Region 5
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 896 9362 4416
REGISTER HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_J6PCsD-tQ_WQc9Uv9V1edg

What is a Letter of Intent? Why do I need one?
DATE/TIME: Wed., Oct. 20, 2021, at 12:00 noon
No one else knows your child as well as you do. But what can you do to maintain your level of care after you're gone? A Letter of Intent is the answer! Join us as Special Needs Specialist Allison Schaberg explains the importance of a Letter of Intent.
PARTNER: Regional Coordinator - Region 13
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 854 6622 9191
REGISTER HERE: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_55-W4BZ4Spuiba-22BxxQw

Government Benefits 101 - Addressing the Ongoing Care and Planning Concerns for an Individual with Special Needs
DATE/TIME: Tues., Oct. 26, 2021, at 12:00 noon
DESCRIPTION: Do you need help understanding and 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: Student HireAbility Navigator - Workforce Solutions of Central Texas System
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 968 7235 0386
REGISTER HERE: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qL9FuUA5RfS8BVoSkTg9HQ

Preparing for the College Application Journey for the ADHD Family
DATE/TIME: Tues., Oct. 26, 2021, at 6:30 pm
DESCRIPTION: If you are the parent of a high schooler with ADD or ADHD, selecting a college is mystifying. You may wonder if you should begin with your local community college or if the goal of a traditional academic community is a possibility?
Join us to hear from Independent Educational Consultant Jodi Glou who will demystify our thoughts about college applications for the family with a child with learning challenges.
As the founder and owner of Custom College Consulting, Jodi Glou specializes in working with students who have learning challenges as they seek to find their best fit in post-secondary education.
PARTNER: This event is in partnership with Fort Bend ADDA Parent Support Group.
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 830 9451 1937
REGISTER HERE: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_L29kr_3LR1WKRT7buNpowQ

Special Needs Planning - Medicaid Waivers, SSI Eligibility, and Preserving Benefits
DATE/TIME: Wed., Oct. 27, 2021, at 12:00 noon
DESCRIPTION: There are many decisions to be made as you prepare for the future of your special needs family member. Living with a disability is often associated with significant costs. That’s why families should understand Medicaid Waivers (specifically the Texas IDD Service System), SSI eligibility, and the importance of preserving benefits. Join us as Allison Schaberg, Special Needs Financial Planner, explains how to successfully plan for your future.
PARTNER: Student HireAbility Navigator w/Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas
ZOOM WEBINAR ID: 858 7646 7291
REGISTER HERE: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_h8iDrNdWQ_QYhlf_ZP0Z5w

LTISD Transition Newsletter, October 2021
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!

**Upcoming Virtual Open House Dates:**

November 12th, 2:00pm-4:00pm [Click Here to Register](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](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, Open House dates have not yet been announced.*

[Click here to watch the 2021 E4Texas Virtual Open House](https://disabilitystudies.utexas.edu/e4texas)
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, October 23 (10 am)
- Saturday, November 13 (10 am)
- Saturday, December 4 (10 am)

To register for one of our monthly Open Houses, please visit: [https://bit.ly/3qehJW4](https://bit.ly/3qehJW4)

To register for a Traditional UNT Campus Tour, please visit: [https://tours.unt.edu/signup/student](https://tours.unt.edu/signup/student)

**Application Information** can be found at [https://elevar.unt.edu/admissions](https://elevar.unt.edu/admissions)
- Applications Open December 1
- Applications Close February 1

---

**Upcoming Event:**

[https://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/sooner-works](https://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/sooner-works)
**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/](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](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](https://www.dps.texas.gov/driverlicense/applyforid.htm)

Take a look at this brochure for more information:  
[https://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-57.pdf](https://www.dps.texas.gov/internetforms/Forms/DL-57.pdf)

**Helpful Transition Resource Website:**

**Federal Programs for People with Disabilities**  
[https://hhs.texas.gov/services/disability](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?**  

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](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.
Helpful Transition Resource Website:

https://www.arcaustin.org/
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.

Helpful Transition Resource Website:

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.

Helpful Transition Resource Website:

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.

Helpful Transition Resource Website:

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.