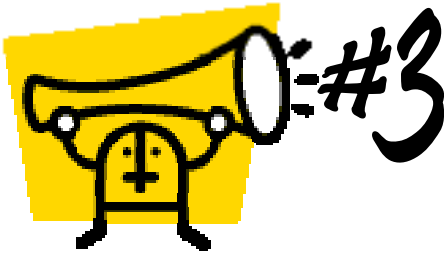


Ventura County Special Education Local Plan Area
Community Advisory Committee (CAC)



Information Alert for Parents of Special Education Students

Update on the “*Transition to Adult Life*” Process

Recent changes in state and federal law have impacted the way that we plan for the transition to adult life for Special Education students

1. **AGE** – The age of transition planning has changed **from 14 to 16 years old**. This means that the IEP team should begin to address transition at the IEP when the student is 15, so that it is in place by the time s/he turns 16.
2. **ASSESSMENTS** – The law requires that the process of planning for adult life include appropriate transition assessments. All students will be given career interest assessments as well as career skills assessments. **Career interest** tools help people to find out “*what I want to be*” and **career skills** help to identify “*what I am good at*.” Both of these will be used as a source of information in helping the student decide what s/he wants to be.
3. **STUDENT INVITED TO THE IEP** – An ongoing requirement of the law is that the student **must** be invited to attend the IEP meeting if transition to adult life will be discussed. This is because their goals and dreams for the future become the basis for developing transition goals and services. A parent may not refuse to allow the student to attend.
4. **DREAMS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH/POSTSECONDARY SCHOOL** – New in the law is that the student must identify their preferences for what they hope to do after they exit public school, in the following areas:
 - Independent Living
 - Education
 - Training (Vocational schools)
 - Employment
5. **ANNUAL GOALS FOR TRANSITION** – Also new in the law is that for areas where there are needs, annual IEP goals will be written. This means that the parent will get progress reports on these goals, just like any other IEP goal.
6. **PARENT INPUT** – All of our children, including those with and without disabilities, need our guidance in assisting them in dreaming and setting goals for the future. It continues to be very important for parents to be involved with their children as they look forward to adult life. Parents can help by assisting their students in articulating to the IEP team what their dreams and goals are. Parents can also assist their young person to be aware of and access adult services that they may need.

We have lots of informational materials for you! Go to our website and click on “Parent Information.”