

Parent Resources

Exciting Times Ahead for MSSD Students After Graduation!

By Tracy Allen, Home School Coordinator

Transitions are a part of everyone's life. While it's an exciting time when a child is transitioning from school to adulthood, it can also be a stressful time. Parents of students who attend Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled (MSSD) should be aware of the options that are available after graduation. Students could become employed at non-supported worksites or local workshops, or they might choose to attend day programs.

Worksites/workshops

In order for a person to be successful in these settings, some necessary skills are involved. Generally, each individual worker must:

- be able to take care of his/her own toileting needs.
- be able to feed himself/herself.
- be clean and dress appropriately. (If grooming is an issue, this will be dealt with by the workshop supervisor.)
- be able to get on and off the bus if using public transportation or transportation provided by the workshop. In most instances, the bus staff will assist a person in a wheelchair on and off the bus.
- be able to follow simple instructions and stay in the assigned work area.
- have some counting skills. (This is not required for all work situations.)
- follow rules and regulations set by the employer (no foul language, no

running, no horseplay). In the event there is a behavioral problem, most workshops will work with the individual as long as the person is not violent.

Day programs

When individuals attend day programs, they are not being paid to perform a duty. Therefore, criteria for day programs are different. Requirements vary depending on the agency providing the program. When making your choice, you should consider the following:

- In most cases, the individual does not have to be toilet trained.
- Staff will assist with feeding and toileting.
- Staff will assist the individual on and off the bus or in and out of a car.
- Staff will try to deal with behavioral issues and help the individual overcome the problem.
- Staff will assist with grooming issues when necessary.

In most day programs, the services provided are driven by a habilitative outcome. This is usually some type of life skill or personal-care skill that is focused on to help the individual become more independent.

Preparation

Parents should work with teachers and regional center service coordinators

during the transition period to become familiar with the requirements of local day programs and workshops. Most agencies have a designated service area; this determines the availability of transportation provided to and from workshops and day programs.

To help students prepare for transition, skills can be taught at school and worked on at home. If an individual student's teacher and parents have an idea of what the student would like to do after graduation, they can help the student work on skills and abilities relevant to a particular job or program. The transition period for the Individualized Education Program (IEP) begins when the student turns 14 years old. In developing IEP goals, the team should focus on skills acquisition needed by the student in adult life.

Parents and teachers should discuss the child's ability level and what skills need to be addressed in order for the student to be successful in the proposed environment. In short, IEP goals should be suitable and appropriate to the environment the student will transition into after graduation.

Other options

Some communities have adult day care centers. Such programs are usually funded through Medicaid or some type of insurance. This type of service and its qualifications may vary.



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
P.O. Box 480; Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 • Phone: (573) 751-4427

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. Inquiries related to Department programs and to the location of services, activities, and facilities that are accessible by persons with disabilities may be directed to the Jefferson State Office Building, Civil Rights Compliance (Title VI/Title IX/504/ADA/Age Act), 5th Floor, 205 Jefferson Street, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480; telephone number 573-526-4757 or Relay Missouri 800-735-2966. Information concerning other available resources, programs, etc., is not to be construed as an endorsement by Missouri Schools for the Severely Disabled for any specific product, organization or philosophy.