

Fairfield County 2009 High School Transition Resource Manual

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Transition from School to Community

If your child is on an IEP and is 13 years of age, it is now time to start thinking about the transition from school to community. At age 14, your IEP team should begin to include your child. Between age 14 and 16, the team will begin discussing transition and writing goals with this in mind.

You can begin working now to move forward on other aspects of daily living: income, employment, health coverage, and other support services. It's never too early to make plans for your child's future. Here are some recommendations:

Finances/Income

To get **Social Security** Children's benefits, a child must have:

- A parent(s) who is disabled or retired and entitled to Social Security benefits; or
- A parent who died after having worked long enough in a job where he or she paid Social Security taxes.

The child also must be:

- Unmarried;
- Younger than 18;
- 18-19 years old and a full-time student (no higher than grade 12); or 18 or older and disabled. (The disability must have started before age 22.)

Another type of benefit is **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**. SSI makes monthly payments to people with low income and limited resources who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled. Your child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. Prior to attainment of age 18, the parent(s) income is also considered when determining eligibility.

Health Care/Insurance

If your child is covered under your medical insurance, check with the company to see **AT WHAT AGE** your child will no longer be covered. Coverage may end at a certain age or when they leave school.

One problem with losing SSI at age 18 (or when leaving school) is that you may ALSO LOSE **MEDICAID**. If your child requires uninterrupted medical coverage, you may not want to allow their Medicaid to lapse, and may want to ensure their adult Social Security application is completed six months before then.

Apply for the **Ohio Home Care Waiver** through Job & Family Services if your child either needs assistance to live independently or needs services like home health care, accessibility, nursing care, and respite.

Employment

A referral to the **Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation** (or BVR) can be made two years prior to exiting school. If you have goals related to employment, make sure BVR is invited to your IEP meetings.

Employment services available at the **Job and Family Services include: Teen Works and Work Net.**

MR/DD

AS SOON AS your child becomes involved with the **Fairfield County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities** (or MR/DD), you need to have their name placed on the waiver waiting lists. Specialists in this field recommend placing your child's name on these waiting lists AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (age 4 is NOT too early). Request an Individual Service Provider (ISC) to assist you.

If your child may need assistance to live independently, apply for the **Individual Options (or IO) Waiver and/or the Level One Waiver (LOW)** through MR/DD. [Waivers can pay for services like Homemaker Personal Care, medical equipment, accessibility changes, or respite.] The Medicaid card comes with the waiver so services such as nursing care may be covered as well.

Remember that MR/DD also offers **Family Support Services** for annual cash assistance, as long as the child is living with the parents.

Mental Health

If your child or adolescent receives **case management** they will NOT necessarily qualify for case management as an adult. You may want to begin the conversation now about who will follow your child. If your child may need to see a **psychiatrist**, remember there is often a waiting list for that service.

Transportation

Your child can, with your help, learn to use public transit independently. Contact Lancaster Public Transit to apply for **Mobility Passport**.

If there are any questions about your child's ability to drive, it is usually a medical doctor who makes the final decision.

Drivers training and vehicle modification assessments are available at OSU - Dodd Hall at 614-293-3833 for an hourly fee.

Financial Skills

OSU Extension offers some several kinds of budgeting education. **The Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living** (or SOCIL) offers basic finance class.

If you have access to a computer, there are a number of online resources that teach financial skills, including "Practical Money Skills," "Money Pals: Being Cool with Cash," and "I Know Where I'm Going (But Will My Cash Keep Up?)"

If you search online for FDIC Money Smart, you can find a "free, award-winning financial education program created to help adults develop money-management skills." And one version is a self-paced computer program!

Facts Regarding Your Child's Status

At 18 years a child becomes an adult and can legally make their own decisions.

Upon 22 year birth date a child must exit school.

Private health insurance ceases to cover a child at 18 -23 years based on school status.

Waiting lists for housing and other supports have waiting time of years.

Gateways to Benefits

Social Security Office

www.socialsecurity.gov

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits for adults disabled since childhood:

The SSDI program pays benefits to adults who have a disability that began before they became 22 years old. This SSDI benefit is considered as a “child’s” benefit because it is paid on a parent’s Social Security earnings record.

For a disabled adult to become entitled to this “child” benefit, one of his or her parents:

- Must be receiving Social Security retirement or disability benefits; or
- Must have died and have worked long enough under Social Security.

These benefits also are payable to an adult who received dependents benefits on a parent’s Social Security earnings record prior to age 18, if he or she is disabled at age 18. The disability decision is made using the disability rules for adults.

SSDI disabled adult “child” benefits continue as long as the individual remains disabled. A child does not need to have worked to get these benefits.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments for children with disabilities:

SSI makes monthly payments to people with low income and limited resources who are 65 or older, or blind or disabled. A child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security’s definition of disability for children, and if his or her income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. The amount of the SSI payment is different from one state to another because some states add to the SSI payment. Your local Social Security office can tell you more about your state’s total SSI payment.

Gateway to Apply:

Fairfield County (1-740-689-2936)

1-800-772-1213

Online at www.socialsecurity.gov

Fairfield County Job and Family Services

www.fcjfs.org

The adult services unit determines eligibility for Medicaid, food stamps, assistance with Medicare expenses, disability assistance for disabled adults with no minor children in the home and for aged individuals. Determines eligibility for passport and waiver services as well as Medicaid for nursing home residents. JFS staff may also act as an SSI advocate to guide a disabled person through the Social Security system in an effort to get benefits approved.

- **Medicaid**

www.cms.hhs.gov

Medicaid is health insurance that helps many people who can't afford medical care pay for some or all of their medical bills.

Medicaid is available only to people with limited income.

You must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible for

Medicaid. Medicaid does not pay money to you; instead, it sends payments directly to your health care providers.

- **Home and Community Based Services
Waivers**

www.jfs.ohio.gov/ohp/bcps/FactSheets/HCBS.pdf

Home and Community Based Services Waivers provide alternatives to institutional long-term care. Without waivers many consumers would live in a hospital, nursing home, or Institutional Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)

- **Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities**

www.jfs.ohio.gov.OHP/bcps/FactSheets/MBIWD.pdf

The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program allows individuals with disabilities who are working to qualify for Medicaid with higher income and resource limits, and buy into Medicaid by paying a reasonable premium based on income.

Ohioans between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability (as defined by the Social Security Administration) who are earning up to 250 percent (\$26,000 in 2008) of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible. Individuals with higher incomes should still apply because income disregards, deductions, credits, and work expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility.

- Medicare

www.medicare.gov

Medicare is a health insurance program for:
people age 65 or older,
people under age 65 with certain disabilities, and
people of all ages with End-Stage Renal Disease (permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant).

Gateway to apply for these benefits and more:

Fairfield County Job and Family Services

(740-653-1701)

239 West Main Street

Lancaster, OH 43130

Fairfield County Department of Health

Bureau of Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh):

Children who are 0-21 years of age, permanent residents of Ohio, under the care of a BCMh approved doctor, and who have or may have a chronic medical condition are eligible for the program. Financial eligibility is required for the Treatment Program only.

(740) 653-4489

1587 Granville Pike

Lancaster, OH 43130

Center of Vocational Alternatives (COVA)

www.cova.org

(614) 294-7117

Toll free (877-521-2682)

Provides assistance to those who want to become or stay employed by determining how benefits will be affected by earned income. The goal is to enable individuals to maximize their current or potential benefits from sources such as Social Security, Ohio Department of Job and Family Services, and others while becoming or staying employed.

Additional Resources:

Information and Referral of Fairfield County

www.informationreferral.org

(740-687-0500)

Links people with community resources of Fairfield County.

Ohio Benefit Bank

www.obb.ohio.gov

(1-800-648-1176)

A web-based computer program to connect low and moderate-income Ohioans with access to work supports such as tax credits and public benefits. Check potential eligibility for benefits such as home health coverage, home energy assistance, food stamps, etc.

Benefits Check Up

www.benefitscheckup.org

Find benefits programs that help pay for prescription drugs, health care, rent, utilities, and other needs.

Gateway to Services in Fairfield County

www.facfc.org

Listing provides agency name, services and contact information.

Gateways to Employment

Schools

- **Fairfield Educational Service Center**
 - Work Trainer/Coordinator or Job Trainer
 - Serves special needs students county wide
 - 740-653-3193

- **Lancaster City Schools**
 - Director of Special Education
 - 740-687-7360

- **Pickerington City Schools**
 - Transition Specialist/Work Study Coordinator, or Director of Special Education
 - 614-830-2700

- **Eastland Fairfield Career and Tech School**
 - www.eastland-fairfield.com
 - 740-756-9243

Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation

www.rsc.ohio.gov

(614-466-6031) or (1-800- 430-6940)

The Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation (BVR) and Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) help people with disabilities get or keep a job. The Bureau of Disability Determination (BDD) determines eligibility for Social Security disability benefits or Supplemental Security Income.

Work Net

www.myworknet.com

WorkNet is primarily used for self-directed job searches, including online job searches, resume preparation and/or preparing for an interview. Computers are loaded with programs that will help assess career interest, aptitudes and job expansion. By browsing the Internet, one can find average wages for specific jobs or compare the job market from county to county or state to state.

Teen Works offers training in basic skills and work readiness for teens 14 -21 years.

Contact Fairfield County Job and Family Services to apply:
239 West Main Street
Lancaster, OH 43130
(740-689-2494)

Eastland Fairfield Career and Tech School

www.eastland-fairfield.com

(740-756-9243)

Nearly 40 career and technical programs covering practically every career field that will prepare you for college and the workforce.

Opportunity Center (MRDD)

www.fairfieldmrdd.com

(740-756-7874)

Paid work experiences through a variety of assembly, packaging and collating contracts in a supported work environment are provided through Fairfield Industries (FI). Services include various evaluations and assessment, job seeking skills training, job development and placement, job coaching and follow-along and on-the-job training opportunities.

Community Employment Services (CES)

www.fairfieldmrdd.com

(740-756-7874)

Services include various evaluations and assessment, job seeking skills training, job development and placement, job coaching and follow-along and on-the-job training opportunities.

Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities

www.ifs.ohio.gov.OHP/bcps/FactSheets/MBIWD.pdf

The Medicaid Buy-In for Workers with Disabilities (MBIWD) program allows individuals with disabilities who are working to qualify for Medicaid with higher income and resource limits, and buy into Medicaid by paying a reasonable premium based on income.

Ohioans between the ages of 16 and 64 with a disability (as defined by the Social Security Administration) who are earning up to 250 percent (\$26,000 in 2008) of the Federal Poverty Level are eligible. Individuals with higher incomes should still apply because income disregards, deductions, credits, and work expenses are considered in determining financial eligibility.

Contact your local Job and Family Service office to apply:

(740-653-1701)

239 West Main Street

Lancaster, OH 43130

Post-secondary schooling:

Ohio University

www.lancaster.ohiou.edu/

(740-654-6711)

Offers associate, bachelor and master degree programs.

Eastland-Fairfield Career and Technical Schools:

Adult Workforce Development

www.eastland-fairfield.com

(740-756-9243)

Nearly 40 career and technical programs covering practically every career field that will prepare you for college and the workforce.

Other Colleges and Universities

Consult websites based on academic interest.

Supporting Services:

Ohio High School High Tech

www.ohsht.org

Designed to provide young adults between the ages of 14-22, with all types of disabilities, the opportunity to explore jobs or postsecondary education leading to technology-related careers within science, technology, engineering and math.

Job Accommodation Network

www.jan.wvu.edu

Designed to increase the employability of people with disabilities by: 1) providing individualized worksite accommodations solutions, 2) providing technical assistance regarding the ADA and other disability related legislation, and 3) educating callers about self-employment options.

National Center for Learning Disabilities

www.ncld.org

Successful transition to college for students with learning disabilities.

Residential Options

Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority

www.fairfieldmha.org

(740-653-6618)

Helps low-income families and individuals in Fairfield County obtain suitable and affordable housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program, a long-term rental assistance program. An individual that receives a Voucher rents a home on the private market (owned by someone other than the Housing Authority). On this program you are responsible to locate your own rental unit. The rent that the household is responsible for is based on a percentage of the income for the entire household. The Housing Authority will pay the remainder of the rent directly to the landlord.

To be placed on the waiting list for assistance you must complete a pre-application card. You can receive a pre-application by any of the following:

- You may call our office and one will be mailed to you
- Stop in our office during office hours and they are in the lobby
- E-mail our office and request one be mailed to you.

Apartments (for persons with disabilities and seniors)

Rent based on 30% of adjusted annual income.

For a listing of these apartments contact:

- Fairfield Metropolitan Housing Authority (653-6618)
- Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living (689-1494)
- Fairfield County MRDD (687-7240)

Group Homes

Contact Fairfield County MRDD

(687-7240)

Residential State Supplement (RSS)

www.goldenbuckeye.com

Residential State Supplement (RSS) provides a monetary supplement to adults with disabilities 18 years or older who meet eligibility requirements who do not require nursing home care. The supplement, along with the consumer's income, pays for an approved living arrangement. RSS participants must live in a certified Adult Foster Home, licensed Adult Family Home, licensed Adult Group Home, licensed Residential Care Facility, certified Community Mental Health Housing or licensed Mental Health Residential Facility.

Dormitory

Contact the Disability Services department of the college you are planning to attend to insure accessibility needs are met.

Additional Resources:

Housing Locator

www.ohiohousinglocator.org

Free online rental housing locator that allows visitors to search for affordable, accessible rental housing statewide.

Information and Referral

www.informationreferral.org

(740-687-0500)

Project House Call – list of private landlords in Fairfield County.

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

www.socil.org

(740-689-1494)

Assistance on identifying home modifications to increase accessibility.

Day Placement:

Opportunity Center – Fairfield County MRDD

www.fairfieldmrdd.com

(740-756-7874)

The adult day supports component of the program consists of three primary areas; **habilitation groups** which focus on the development of communication, self-care and social skills, **activity groups** which provide assistance to individuals with accessing social, leisure and recreational pursuits both within the Opportunity Center and the community and the **senior groups** which provides older adults the opportunity to remain active and involved in activities provided at the center and in the community. Some work is available to participants in the adult day supports component but it is not the primary focus. Individuals interested in work may access vocational training and work skills development through Fairfield Industries, Inc. or CES, Community Employment Services.

Fairfield Center for Disabilities

www.fcdcp.org

(740-653-5501)

Adult Day Service Program is a program for seniors and adults with disabilities. The program offers recreation, socialization, guest speakers, and off-site trips designed to challenge participants' minds and bodies. The program also benefits family caregivers who deserve respite from full-time care duties.

Samaritan Center

(740-687-3634)

Provides activities, social interaction and nursing services in a nurturing environment for adults who need socialization, supervision and assistance during the day.

The One

Legal Issues/Advocacy

Guardianship

A child automatically becomes their own legal guardian upon age 18 years. Any court intervention to alter this status takes approximately 3 months.

For details on the guardianship process go to:

Ohio Legal Rights Services

www.olrs.ohio.gov

(1-800-282-9181)

Alternatives to Guardianship

Guardianship is a serious step that interferes with many or all of the legal interests and rights of the person with a disability. Rethink the need for guardianship in its traditional purpose and assist people to find the assistance they need in making decisions and managing their lives using the same resources available to all community members. Reject the idea that because a person has an intellectual or physical disability, he or she is automatically incompetent and requires a guardian. Understand that all people receive assistance from family, friends and/or paid professionals when making major life decisions. Support people to put alternatives to guardianship in place, preferably prior to the need for such assistance:

- **Representative Payeeship:** If the only significant income an individual receives is a monthly Supplemental Security Income check, it may not be necessary for the person to have a guardian of the estate. A representative payee may be able to handle relevant financial matters for the person.
- **Power of Attorney:** Signed by a competent person, it authorizes another person to act on his or her behalf in certain acts and/or certain periods of time.
- **Trust:** In a trust, a trustee holds and manages money or property for the benefit of the person.
- **Conservatorship:** A person who is mentally competent but has a physical disability may ask a court to appoint a conservator to handle specific matters.

If a person already has a guardian, make every effort to assure that the guardianship is limited and specific in scope. Review at least annually and request the guardianship be relinquished as soon as other supports are in place. When choosing a lawyer always make sure the lawyer is familiar with public policy as it pertains to persons with disabilities.

Ohio Legal Rights Services

www.olrs.ohio.gov

(1-800-282-9181)

OLRS is the state protection and advocacy system for Ohioans with disabilities. If you think you have been abused or neglected, discriminated against, denied services or been unable to access public facilities, you should contact the OLRS Intake Department.

Southeastern Ohio Legal Services

www.oslsa.org

(740-653-7705)

The Lancaster office of SEOLS helps low-income individuals with civil legal problems in Fairfield and Hocking Counties.

Legal Clinic

www.fairfieldcountybar.com/legal_clinic_2006.htm

(740- 653-1701)

Free legal advice to income eligible individuals.

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities

www.ocecd.org

OCECD is a statewide, non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the educational interests of children with disabilities.

They assist individuals or groups with such areas as:

- Public policy and school reform
- Identification of disabilities
- Early intervention for infants and preschoolers
- Family support systems
- Special education
- Community based services
- Information, referral and networking services
- Transition from high school to employment/college in the community
- Resources for professionals
- Team work between persons with disabilities, their families and service providers

Department of Education

www.ed.gov

Official site providing information on U.S. education, policy, research, grants, financial aid and more.

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

www.socil.org

(740-689-1494)

Fairfield County MRDD

www.fairfieldmrdd.com

(740-687-7240)

Transportation

Lancaster Public Transit

www.ci.lancaster.oh.us/dept/transit

(740-681-5086)

Provides curb to curb transit in Lancaster city area as well as limited county area transit. Discount rates available to persons with disabilities that have the Mobility Passport.

Fairfield County Job and Family Services

(689-6063)

Provides transportation for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients.

Fairfield Center for Disabilities

(740-653-1186)

Provides door to door transit for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients. Non-medical transportation is at private pay rates. Provides transit to its day placement services.

Samaritan Center

(740-687-1921)

Provides door to door transit for medical appointments to Medicaid recipients. Provides transit to its day placement services.

Adaptive Driver Training:

OSU

(614-293-3833)

Offers driver training or vehicle modification assessment. Paid by insurance or private pay.

Vehicle Modifications

To purchase adaptive vehicles or to install adaptations to vehicle:

www.disableddealer.com

Key Mobility	(937-374-3226)
Mobility Works	(330-489-6666)
Fitzpatrick's	(1-800-545-1102)

Providers

Fairfield County Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability

(740-687-7240)

- Contact your assigned Individual Support Coordinator for assistance in locating a provider.
- If you do not have an ISC contact the MRDD Intake Coordinator

Consumers in the Ohio Home Care Program

www.ohiohcp.org

This site provides a directory of providers in your area. It explains the various services available to the consumer.

There are generally three types of home care providers:

- Agency Providers,
- Waiver Service Providers, and
- Non-Agency Providers.

Agency Providers are companies that have a provider agreement with the ODJFS and have been issued a Medicaid Provider Number. Agencies are the employer of the individuals performing the in-home services.

Waiver Services Providers are companies that provide the additional services available only to Waiver consumers. The individuals that deliver meals, install emergency response systems, or etc are employees of that business.

Non-Agency providers are individuals that obtain a Medicaid Provider Number from the ODJFS. They are then eligible to provide home care services directly to the consumer. These individuals have signed a Medicaid Provider Agreement so they are self-employed.

Non-waiver consumers

State Plan Home Health Services:

Less than 14 hours per week of nursing services, home health aide and skilled therapy.

Consumer must have a Medicaid card.

Contact Medicare certified home health agency (consult phone book).

Private pay or Insurance pay:

Consult phone book for "Home Health Services"

Other Listings:

Fairfield Medical Center

740-687-8000

Request private nursing list.

Mental Health:

New Horizon

740-687-0835

Our Place

740-654-0477

Mid Ohio

740-687-0042

Independent Living Skills

Independent living skills should be assessed and ongoing training provided and supported in all venues of life (home, school, etc). These should be a major focus of the IEP development:

Medication administration
Grooming
Food preparation
Purchasing
Laundry
Housekeeping
Home maintenance

Record keeping
Advocacy skills
Employment skills
Social activities
Finances
Transportation

Though a majority of independent living skills will be developed at home and school here are other community settings that may further support efforts:

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living
740-689-1494
www.socil.org

Fairfield County People First
740- 756-7874

Community Action
740-653-4146

OSU Extension
740-653-5419

Fairfield County Library
www.fcdlibrary.org

Ohio High School High Tech program
www.ohsht.org

BVR
740-681-7279

Reality House
(Job and Family Services – Child Protection Services)
740-653-1701

Community Participation

Start to assess activities of interest. Look in your community for natural venues so you can meet people with similar interests.

Metro Park

www.metroparks.net

YMCA – Lancaster

www.ymcalancaster.org

(740-654-0616)

People Helping People Scholarships available.

YMCA – Canal Winchester

www.ymcacolumbus.org

(614-834-9622)

Lancaster Park and Recreation

www.lancasterparks.com

(740-687-6651)

Pickerington Park and Recreation

www.ci.pickerington.oh.us

(614-833-2211)

Franklin Park Adventure Center

www.columbusrecparks.com/

(614-645-5648)

The Adaptive Adventure Sports Coalition (TAASC)

www.taasc.org

Southeastern Ohio Center for Independent Living

www.socil.org

(740-689-1494)

- Develops Independent Living Plan to address community participation.