



## Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

[www.nlsec.org](http://www.nlsec.org)

16 East Hwy 61; PO Box 40 ~ Esko, MN 55733  
Phone (218) 655-5018 ~ Fax (218) 451-4511

---

### Secondary Transition – A Parent Introduction

Preparing students with disabilities for life after high school graduation.

- Required by law to begin no later than grade 9.
- Based upon student and family preferences
- Required in two areas: education/training and employment/careers
- Optional in three areas: Community participation, recreation & leisure, and independent living
- Must be assessed as part of a 3 year evaluation

When students reach high school, special education takes on a different focus. Though teachers will continue to work on the improvement of skills in reading, math, organization, behavior, etc., they will do so with the goal of providing students with the skills necessary to be successful after graduation. Transition focuses on understanding your disability, self-advocacy, and career exploration.

It may seem premature to be asking junior high school students what they want to do after they graduate from high school and their answers will obviously change over the next several years, but it is important that they begin to start thinking about those things as early as possible. That is why we are including transition in our evaluation and IEP now. We want to begin, in a very small way, the process of preparing students for life after high school.

You will notice some changes in the IEP.

- The student will be included on the team meeting notice and we will slowly encourage their degree of involvement in the IEP meetings.
- There will be two or three “Post-Secondary Measureable Goals”. These are statements about what the students wants to do after graduation.
- At least two years of the students projected class schedule will be listed.
- Transition services are listed. These services are lessons taught or events attended or activities completed that prepare the student for life after school.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact:

Transition Coordinator

Northern Lights Special Education Cooperative

April 2015