

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
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Greetings,

Welcome to our guide on transition planning and adult services for school-age youth!

In Rhode Island, transition planning happens between ages 14-22 for students diagnosed with an Intellectual or Developmental Disability (I/DD) who might need support services as adults.

We know that adult services are new to families and there are many questions about what steps to take and what services are available. The Division of Developmental Disabilities and Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN) have put together this packet to help you and your child plan for the future.

You might have received a similar packet during your child's past Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings. At this age, it's important to consider completing the application for adult services included in this packet. Finding out if your child qualifies for adult services by age 17 gives you and your child time to plan for the future while they are still in school.

RIPIN supports families and has webinars and resources to help during these transition years. Please visit their website at <https://ripin.org/> or call 270-0101 for more information.

You may worry about your child's ability to make decisions as they get closer to adulthood. Deciding what's best for your soon-to-be adult child can be overwhelming. [Disability Rights RI \(DRRI\) has information on alternatives to guardianship and supported decision making.](#) This information might help you decide.

Division staff are also available to answer questions. Please call 462-1723 to speak with the Transition Coordinator or email Carolee.Leach@bhddh.ri.gov for help. To reach the Transition Administrator, call 462-2519 or email susan.hayward@bhddh.ri.gov.

Thank you for reviewing this packet. You are taking an important step in helping your child build a strong and successful future.

Sincerely,

Susan Hayward, MSW, LCSW

Administrator, Transition Services