

# Checklist for Those Attending College



This checklist is meant to be used with the [Exceptional Lives Massachusetts Transition Guide](#).

Items in red are most important. Families should be sure to do the blue items as well.

<p><b>Who this is for:</b> Students who have mild to moderate disabilities, and who are overall high functioning. These are students whose goals are to graduate high school, go to college, university or vocational school, and have a career or job.</p> <p><b>What the focus is:</b> Ensuring appropriate services to do well in high school and prepare for college.</p> <p><b>Key questions to think about:</b> What services do these students need in order to be successful? What accommodations will help them learn in the classroom and prepare for college? What extra support might they need in college, and which college programs would offer this support?</p>		
Age	Actions	Resources
Any age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for MassHealth</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for SSI</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for DDS services</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Get a Massachusetts photo ID if needed (age 14 or older)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Exceptional Lives Health Insurance Guide</a></li> <li><a href="#">Exceptional Lives SSI Guide</a></li> <li><a href="#">Overview of DDS Services</a></li> </ul>
Age 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student should attend all IEP meetings, if possible</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Begin Transition Planning with IEP team at annual IEP meeting: Start to discuss what your child’s life will look like after age 22, and use Transition Planning Form (TPF) as a worksheet to develop transition goals for the IEP</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Follow up on MassHealth, SSI, and DDS (if applications are not complete)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Look into MCAS accommodations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">A Family Guide to Transition Services in MA</a></li> <li><a href="#">TIPS: Transition Information for Parents and Students with IEPs</a></li> </ul>
Age 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Student takes MCAS – ask for accommodations if needed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start looking for work opportunities or internships to develop job skills, interpersonal relationships, responsibility</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify opportunities for in-school internships</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Learn about 688 process and see if your child may qualify for adult services</li> </ul>	
Age 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start preparing for college entrance exams (PSAT, SAT, ACT), and contact the testing companies about accommodations</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Submit a 688 referral for adult services, if eligible</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply for services from Mass. Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Continue to seek work/internship opportunities, including in-school opportunities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meet with the IEP team and update the TPF as needed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start preparing for getting a driver’s license, if appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">MRC Transition Services Guide to Ch. 688</a></li> </ul>

<b>Age 17</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Discuss transfer of rights at age 18 (start process for limited guardianship, health care proxy or other decision-making supports, as appropriate)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Start visiting colleges and filling out applications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Take required college entrance exams, confirm accommodations beforehand</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Work with guidance counselor and IEP team to identify appropriate college choices</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Reach out to college disability services offices and identify accommodations that might be needed on campus</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">College Support for Students with Disabilities</a></p> <p><a href="#">Accommodations for SAT</a></p> <p><a href="#">Accommodations for ACT</a></p>
<b>Age 18</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Apply to colleges</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Make sure FAFSA is submitted</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Finalize decision-making supports (limited guardianship, healthcare proxy, etc.; otherwise your child must sign all documents)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Meet with the IEP team and confirm that graduation requirements can be met. Arrange to stay in school for another year if needed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If accepted, contact college disability services and put in place supports as needed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Register all males for selective service (military draft – this is required, regardless of disability. It does not mean they will have to serve!)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Register to vote</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Identify career options that match the student’s interests and skills</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Summary of Student Performance</a></p> <p><a href="#">Exceptional Lives Guardianship Guide</a></p> <p><a href="#">FAFSA</a></p> <p><a href="#">Selective service</a></p> <p><a href="#">Voter registration</a></p>

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