

Transition Planning Information

As your student nears the end of his or her high school experience, Learning Prep staff is ready to assist your family in navigating the next steps in transition planning. Depending on your student's needs, interests, and your community's involvement, Learning Prep staff will provide varying degrees of support. Like all aspects of educational and career planning, some of the responsibilities will fall on Learning Prep staff and others will fall on your family or community. In order to reduce confusion and better prepare families for the transition process, the following common themes have been outlined based on participant involvement:

School Responsibilities:

- Provide information to students and families regarding post high school options through Career Education classes, open house nights, IEP Team Meetings, email, phone conversations, and in person meetings with your student's transition guidance counselor.
- Follow up on requests for recommendation letters from teachers.
- Issue official transcripts.
- Register students for accommodations for SAT or ACT exams.
- Provide fee waivers.

Family Responsibilities:

- Visit a variety of post high school programs.
- Fill out applications including written college essays.
- Register student for SAT or ACT exam.
- Complete written request for all applicable forms, transcripts, recommendations from the school through your student's transition counselor.
- Pay all fees.

Please keep in mind that there may be unforeseen circumstances or unique situations that may call for more collaboration among the involved parties or participation from one party. If you have questions or concerns regarding the application process, please feel free to contact your student's transition guidance counselor.

Standardized Testing Information:

In most situations, standardized tests can be waived for students with a diagnosed learning disability. Please consider the programs, for which your student is applying, prior to registering your student for a standardized exam.

Most Massachusetts state colleges and universities will accept documentation, such as an IEP or educational testing, in the place of SAT or ACT exam scores. Community colleges and supportive colleges typically do not require standardized testing for admittance into their programs.

If you chose to take a standardized test, you can register for accommodations such as extended time, school-based testing, or the use of a calculator. Accommodation requests typically take about seven weeks to be approved, so be sure to register early. Students and parents need to log on to the test company's website to create a profile and to register for the exam. Additionally, students and parents will have to fill out a waiver allowing LPS staff to send documentation outlining the student's diagnosis and current accommodations being utilized in school. The school-based accommodations must be in place for at least four months prior to applying for similar accommodations for standardized testing.

Websites:

ACT.org

Collegeboard.org (SAT)

College Learning/Resource Centers Information:

All college level programs will have a Learning Center or Resource Center that is available for any student to access for assistance with routine assignments and long term projects. Supportive colleges and specialized programs within a traditional college generally offer more direct resources and instruction and are reserved for students with diagnosed learning disabilities. Other programs at private and state colleges offer more general assistance for the overall student body. **Students must independently advocate for assistance when needed.** Typically, students will bring their IEP and most updated testing to the learning center and meet with a counselor who will help the student access supportive resources based on accommodations that the student used in the past. When visiting a college or transition program, be sure to ask about the services offered to students with diagnosed learning disabilities.

[Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\):](#)

FAFSA is the free application form that is used when a family is applying for federal student aid through the United States Department of Education. Beginning in October, families can log onto **fafsa.gov** to fill out the financial aid forms. Starting in 2017, FAFSA ended using paper copies and all forms must be completed online. However, if you have a special circumstance, you can contact FAFSA and request specific paper copies (three copy limit).

For more information on how to fill out the form, what types of assistance are available, and who qualifies for federal assistance please visit **studentaid.gov**. Additionally, you can check with your local high school's guidance website or a local library to see if there is a financial aid event in your community.

[Scholarship Information:](#)

Students interested in applying for scholarships should check their local high school's website for a list of community based scholarships. In most cases, towns have one application that allows the student to access all available scholarships within their community. Additionally, LPS staff will provide information on national or learning disabled specific scholarships as it becomes available. Please keep in mind that most scholarships are not announced until after January, and that some scholarships will require a written essay or a recommendation from a teacher, principal, counselor, or another person involved with your student's educational or career planning goals.

[College Entrance and Examination Board Code:](#)

Learning Prep's C.E.E.B. code is 222345. This code is required when filling out college applications and registering for standardized testing.