

**QUICK  
GUIDE**

# Transitioning Out of School for Students with Traumatic Brain Injury

Brain injury presents a spectrum of disorder. Not every brain injury is the same, and students with a brain injury may struggle to achieve optimal school and work outcomes without appropriate support. As students with brain injury prepare to transition out of school, there are services to help. Transition plans for all students with disabilities, ages 15-21, must be built into the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

## What are transition services?

Transition services should address how to move a student successfully from school to postsecondary education and training, employment, independent living, and community participation; it can begin as early as 14. Goals and activities are based on the student's needs, preferences, abilities and interests, and include needed supports in:

1. Instruction
2. Related services
3. Community experiences
4. Development of employment and other post-school adult living objectives
5. Acquisition of daily living skills as appropriate
6. Functional vocational evaluation

The Center on Brain Injury Research and Training ([www.cbirt.org](http://www.cbirt.org)) looked at these recommended practices for planning, organizing, and evaluating transition education services and programs, and created a **Transition Toolkit for Students with a Traumatic Brain Injury**. The toolkit assists families and transition staff to recognize the unique challenges a student with a brain injury may have and how to address and work through the transition process with these students.

## My child received Special Education Services in public school; what happens if they go to college?

Colleges are not bound by the Individuals with Education Act, which requires an Individual Education Plan (IEP); they are required to provide 504 plans. Many colleges do have a Disability Specialist, who can assist with supports or accommodations available to students in higher education. Colleges are required to provide 504 plans.

## My child is not going to college; what options do they have?

Contact the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative (DARS). DARS offers vocational rehabilitation services for people with a disability as they prepare to find or keep a job. Services can include career exploration, counseling, vocational evaluation and assessments, job development and placement, post-secondary education, on the job training and supported employment.

**Brain Injury Association of Virginia** can help you and your child better understand brain injury and consult with you about your personal situation. We can then direct you to services you might need in your area. Our services are confidential and free.