

# TRANSITIONING INTO ADOLESCENT AND ADULT SERVICES: Challenges and Strategies

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Resources (See below for links)

#### When should I start asking questions?

- TODAY!!!
- It's not too early to start

- DDS
- DESE

#### How does the school-based transition process work?

- Age 14
- Transition Planning (688 process)
- Interagency collaboration (School / DDS)
- Service coordination (DDS)

- DESE
- DDS
- DDS Transition Information
- MassAdvocates

#### What types of residential models are there?

- Shared Living / AFC
- 24/7
- Independent Living Supports

- DDS

#### How do the new DDS Eligibility regulations affect me?

- Functional skills vs. Intelligence/Performance
- Different agencies can support

- DDS - Autism Omnibus Bill
- DMH
- MRC

#### Day Hab? CBDS? Voc? PETS? What do those mean?

- Day Hab: Life skills, social skills, self-help skills
- Community Based Day Supports
- Vocational
- Pre-employment

- DDS
- Autism Speaks Resource Guide
- Provider Agencies

#### Are the funding differences really that significant?

- Yes. Entitlement vs non-entitlement
- Fading supports during school
- Focus on independent skills

- DESE
- DDS
- DDS Transition Information

#### What am I responsible for?

- Determine responsibilities of all providers
- Collaboration is crucial
- Will need to negotiate
- People make mistakes

- DDS / DESE
- Autism Speaks Resource Guide
- AANE
- MassAdvocates
- DDS Transition Information

#### How do I "Shop for Services"?

- Visit with multiple agencies
- Look for individualized services
- Determine level of Autism-specific services

- DDS
- Autism Speaks Resource Guide

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## RESOURCES

- **MA Department of Developmental Services (DDS)** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds/>
- **Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/mrc/>
- **MA Department of Mental Health (DMH)** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dmh/>
- **MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** <http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/links/transition.html>
- **MA Autism Omnibus Bill** Google “Autism Omnibus Bill”
- **An Act Relative to Insurance Coverage for Autism (ARICA)** <https://www.disabilityinfo.org/ARICA/aricafaqs.aspx>
- **Asperger/Autism Network** <http://www.aane.org/>
- **Autism Speaks Resource Guide** <https://www.autismspeaks.org/resource-guide/state/ma>
- **Massachusetts Advocates for Children** <http://massadvocates.org/>
- **MassHealth** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/masshealth/>
- **DDS Positive Behavior Support** <http://ddslearning.com/dds-pbs-initiative/>
- **DDS Family Support Centers** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dmr/reports/family-support/family-support-directory.pdf>
- **DDS Transition Information**  
*A lot of information*  
Google “important transition information every family should know”  
<http://www.doe.mass.edu/sped/iep/688/brochure.pdf>

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