

# Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide

Dear Student and Parent/Guardian,



Your transition from school to adult life is an important series of steps. To help you map out this process, the Bureau of Special Education has developed a website for you, your family and school. The name of the website is “**Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide.**” The address for the website is [www.secondarytransition.org](http://www.secondarytransition.org).

The website is organized by topics. The topics cover key areas of your secondary transition, including post-secondary education and training, employment and community living. Some of the information on the website suggests important subjects and activities for you to think about, based on your age. The website also has links to other Pennsylvania agencies and departments that can help support your transition. You can access the website any time and look for information when it’s important to you. If you cannot access the website, you can request a CD or printed copy of the website’s core documents, available in either English or Spanish, by contacting your school or by calling the Pennsylvania Training & Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) at 800-446-5607.

Please know that specific questions about your transition from school to adult life can be addressed by your school’s Transition Coordinator or Director of Special Education.

To learn more about the website, please attend the “Introduction to the Pennsylvania Secondary Transition Guide” webinar scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Registration is available through the PaTTAN website <http://www.pattan.net>. The session will be recorded and available for future viewing.

## Numbers to call for assistance

### Special Education ConsultLine

800-879-2301 Voice, 800-654-5984, TTY, <http://odr-pa.org/contact-consultline> is a program of the Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, used by parents or parent support organizations to answer questions about school-related concerns, special education, and the complaint system. It is designed to be a one-stop service for parents concerning special education services and programs.

### Disability Rights Network of

**Pennsylvania**, 800-692-7443 Voice, 877-375-7139 TTY, [www.drnpa.org](http://www.drnpa.org), whose mission is to advance, protect and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

*For information and support to parents of children with disabilities, contact the following Pennsylvania, federally-funded projects through the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP):*

- **Parent Education Network (PEN)**  
800-522-5827, V/TTY  
[www.parentednet.org](http://www.parentednet.org)
- **Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership (PEAL) Center**  
866-950-1040, V/TTY  
[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)
- **The Mentor Parent Program, Inc.**  
888-447-1431 or 814-226-4151  
[www.mentorparent.org](http://www.mentorparent.org)
- **Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales (HUNE), Inc.**  
215-425-6203 Voice, <http://huneinc.org>
- **Mission Empower**  
855-825-0788 or 814-825-0788  
<http://www.missionempower.org>

## Secondary Transition Information: Community Agency Contacts and Services

To contact any of the departments or offices below via TTY, call 800-654-5984

**Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), 800-442-6351, (TTY) 866-830-7327.** The mission of the OVR is to assist Pennsylvanians with disabilities to obtain or keep a job. OVR is an eligibility-based program. VR services are provided by vocational rehabilitation counselors located in 21 local district offices across the state. Visit OVR at [www.dli.state.pa.us/ovr](http://www.dli.state.pa.us/ovr), click on disability services.

**Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry, Bureau of Workforce Development Partnership, 717-787-5279.** The Bureau oversees the coordination of employment and training services for the Commonwealth under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Services are provided to adults and youth through 23 Local Workforce Investment Areas comprised of 80 CareerLink Centers located throughout the state. Visit CareerLink at [www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us](http://www.pacareerlink.state.pa.us).

**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Bureau of County, Children & Youth Programs, 717-783-0629.** Pennsylvania's child welfare system is county-administered and state supervised. Child welfare and juvenile justice services are organized, managed, and delivered by County Children and Youth agencies and County Juvenile Probation offices, respectively. Visit the Bureau of County Children & Youth Programs at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofchildrenyouthandfamilies/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofchildrenyouthandfamilies/index.htm).

**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Developmental Programs (ODP), 717-787-3700.** ODP provides individuals with mental retardation and autism, and their families, the services and supports they need to participate fully in community life. Visit ODP at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofdevelopmentalprograms/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofdevelopmentalprograms/index.htm).

**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS), 877-356-5355.** OMHSAS maintains a comprehensive, community-based mental health system of care for every county in the Commonwealth based on the Child and Adolescent Service System Program (CASSP). OMHSAS provides positive outcomes for children/adolescents and their families with, or at risk of, mental health problems. Visit OMHSAS at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofmentalhealthandsubstanceabuseservices/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofmentalhealthandsubstanceabuseservices/index.htm).

**Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Medical Assistance (MA), 717-787-1870.** Medical Assistance is a federal/state financed health insurance program. This agency provides medical assistance to low-income persons who are 65 or older, blind, disabled, or are members of families with dependent children, or are qualified pregnant women. Contact the County Board of Assistance Office in your county or at [www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofmedicalassistanceprograms/index.htm](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/dpworganization/officeofmedicalassistanceprograms/index.htm).

**Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Family Health, 717-346-3000.** The Bureau facilitates access to health and rehabilitative services for eligible children. For a list of services and eligibility requirements visit [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us). In addition, the Special Kids Network, System of Care Program, 877-986-4550, can assist communities in creating and improving services for children and youth with special health care needs. Information and referral services for individuals with special health care needs are provided through the Health and Human Services Call Center, [www.helpinpa.state.pa.us](http://www.helpinpa.state.pa.us).

**Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP), 717-783-8200.** The Department of Health provides licensed drug and alcohol services for adolescents. Service delivery is based on the intervention need of the individual. Information on accessing services is available through each Single County Authority (SCA) or the county Drug & Alcohol Office. Visit BDAP's website at [www.health.state.pa.us/bdap](http://www.health.state.pa.us/bdap).

**Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC), 717-787-6910.** The Commission is responsible for advising juvenile courts concerning the proper care and maintenance of delinquent children; establishing standards governing administrative practices and judicial procedures used in juvenile courts; establishing personnel practices and employment standards for probation offices; collecting, compiling, and publishing juvenile court statistics; and administering a Grant-in-Aid Program to improve county juvenile probation services. Visit the JCJC website at [www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us).

**Social Security Administration (SSA) 800-772-1213.** SSA facilitates the payment of social security benefits to eligible individuals with disabilities. There are two major categories: (1) Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) for eligible individuals who meet insured status by nature of disability including medical requirements and adult children with disabilities; and (2) Supplemental Security Income (SSI) for eligible children and adults that meet specific medical and income criteria. Visit the SSA website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).