Informing Families
Building Trust
A Partnership for Better Communication
On Developmental Disability Issues in Washington State

Preparing for Life After High School

Post-Secondary Education and Vocational Training

Check it Out

WorkSource

Worksource Youth Services

Find work. Learn and improve job skills. Attend workshops and trainings. Have your job skills and interests assessed.

Every WorkSource Center has a local Disability Placement Specialist to act on behalf of persons with disabilities to provide and advocate for equal opportunities in employment.

Every county has a *WorkSource* center. Google *Worksource Office Directory* to find the center nearest you.

When your child turns 18, s/he has the option to:

- Graduate and continue in the school district's high school transition program until age 21. Remaining in a high school transition program until age 21 offers the benefit of a guided transition to adult life, a bridge to adult services, and the development of independent living skills.
- Graduate and exit the K-12 system. Often, individuals who leave high school at age 18 have been discouraged from staying due to level of disability and/or lack of support, but some choose to seek post-secondary or vocational training independently (or with help from family).

Whether your son or daughter chooses to stay in school or exit at age 18, post-secondary educational and vocational opportunities exist for all adults, regardless of age or ability.

think COLLEGE!
www.thinkcollege.net

Most community colleges offer courses for credit or audit that enhance employability and life skills. Some offer specifically designed programs for students with developmental disabilities. Other colleges find ways to help students with disabilities integrate into existing classes. Ask your high school transition teacher and/or Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) counselor to find out what your local college offers.

Think College!, an online resource for students with intellectual disabilities, lists college programs for students with ID. If you do not have a program in your area, *Think College!* provides tips for starting post-secondary education opportunities for students with disabilities.

Whether it's learning a trade, developing job skills, or pursuing personal interests, post-secondary education builds self-esteem, increases chances of employment and creates a more inclusive community.

SELF-ADVOCACY

Self-Advocacy groups promote success in school, work, and life. In many parts of the state, they are creating self-advocacy chapters in high schools. For more information, call People First toll-free at 1-800-758-1123. In Pierce and Kitsap counties, contact Self Advocates of Washington at 1-253-597-3709.