

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Transition Planning for students with
Developmental Disabilities (DD) and/or
Physical Disabilities (PD)



This toolkit is aimed at supporting students with developmental disabilities and physical disabilities to plan ahead, connect with services and programs, and access appropriate supports.



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



This toolkit is a helpful guide for families and students who are transitioning out of high school. It provides important information for students with special education needs and disabilities. The TDSB is committed to partnering with families to ensure every student's success during these important times of change.

Understanding the Transition Process

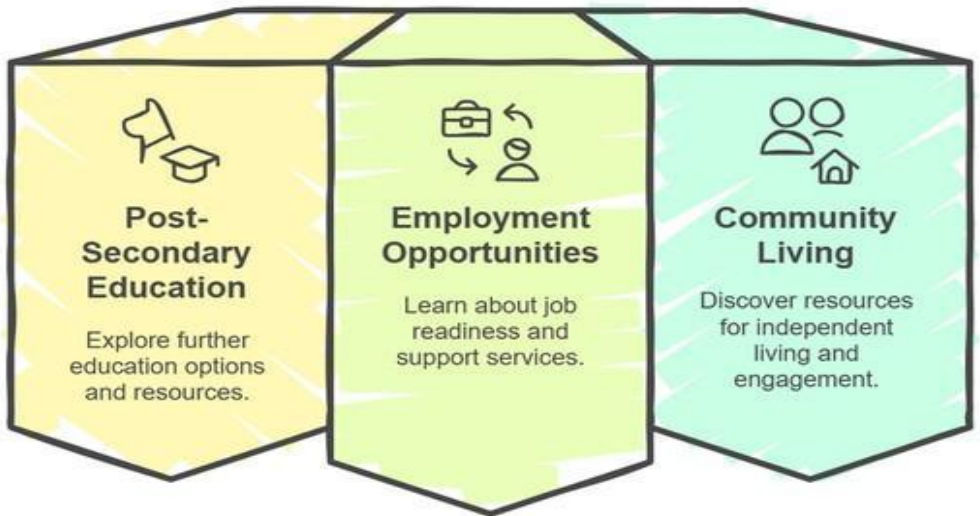
Transitioning from high school is a significant milestone for students and their families. It is essential to recognize that there are various paths available, and not every option will be the right fit for everyone. This toolkit provides an overview of different categories and resources to assist families in exploring and planning for the next steps after high school.



Where do I start?

Transitioning out of high school brings many changes for young adults. These changes involve families exploring new adult supports and services. Early planning, collaboration with a support team and the school, and ongoing adjustments to the plan are key to ensuring a smooth and successful transition.

Pathways for Transition



General Considerations



Recommended Timelines

Age 14-15

Beginning in Grade 9 (high school entry)

At this stage, it is important to collect the following documents to support future applications and next steps:

- [Birth Certificate](#) [Health Card](#)
[Passport](#)
- [Social Insurance Number \(SIN\)](#)
- Open a bank account through your bank branch
[Open an RDSP](#)
- [Apply for an Access 2 Card](#)
- [Apply for Special Service Cards](#)

Recommended Timelines

Age 16-17

During this time period, it is important to apply for the following:

- [Apply for Developmental Services Ontario \(DSO\) and Passport Funding](#)
- [Apply for Ontario Photo Card](#)



When completing a DSO Application, please have ready:

- ✓ Proof of Age (i.e., Birth Certificate)
- ✓ Proof of Ontario residence (i.e., Health Card)
- ✓ Psychological Assessment — with scores on both Cognitive and Adaptive Functioning

Recommended Timelines

Age 17

During this time period,
it is important to apply
for the following:

[Apply for Ontario Disability Support Program \(ODSP\)](#)

To apply, you will need the
following:

SIN
Card

Health
Card

Banking
Informati
on
Immigrat
ion
Docume
nts (if
applicabl
e)
Tax Returns (if

applicable)

Helpful Tips and Next Steps

- ✓ Start early—applications take time.
- ✓ Stay organized with copies of all documents.
- ✓ Reach out for help if needed.

Recommended Timelines- Age 18-21

When a student with special education needs turns 18, they become eligible for a range of adult services and funding programs designed to support their transition into adulthood.

These services may include:

DSO funded
resources Passport
Funding
ODSP income
support and
benefits
Fee-for-S
ervice
Programs
A Post-21
Family
Plan

Reminders

- ✓ Ensure ODSP application is submitted – Apply at 17.5 years old to avoid gaps in financial support.
- ✓ Plan how to use Passport funding – This money can help with things like learning new skills, joining programs, or getting extra support. Planning early helps use it in the best way.
- ✓ Consider additional supports – Other resources like the
- ✓ Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and community-based programs may provide further assistance.

Setting up a bank account for young adults with Special Education Needs and/or Disabilities

Access to Benefits: A bank account is often required to receive government benefits, like ODSP (Ontario Disability Support Program) or other financial support programs.

RDSP Contributions: If the child is eligible for a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP), a bank account is needed to deposit and grow the savings for future needs.

Tracking Expenses: This helps parents track their child's expenses and savings, ensuring that funds are used responsibly for their needs.

What is the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)?

The Disability Tax Credit (DTC) is a tax benefit in Canada that helps people with disabilities or their caregivers pay less in taxes.

What are the benefits of applying for DTC?

- It reduces the amount of income tax a person or their family has to pay.
- Being approved for the DTC can also help a person qualify for other programs, like the Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) and certain government benefits.
- There are no age requirements (you can apply at any age)

Helpful Tips and Next Steps

- ✓ A doctor or specialist must complete a form to confirm the disability.
- ✓ Apply for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) by
- ✓ submitting Form [T2201](#) to the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).
- ✓ To qualify for the DTC, a person must have a
- ✓ severe and long-term impairment in physical or mental functions that affects them at least 90% of the time.

What is a Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)?

A Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP) is a special savings account in Canada that helps people with disabilities save money for their future.

Saving for the Future: How an RDSP Helps People with Disabilities

- ☐ The government may add extra money to the account through grants and bonds.
- ☐ The person or their family can put money in to help save over time.
- ☐ The savings grow tax-free until they are taken out.
- ☐ It is a good way to save for long-term needs, like housing, support services, or daily expenses in adulthood.

What documents you need to apply:

- Qualify for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)
- Have a valid Social Insurance Number (SIN)
- Be a Canadian resident
- Be 59 years old or less

More information of RDSP can be found on this [link](#).

Applying for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)

The ODSP helps people with disabilities by providing financial and job supports. It helps cover costs for things like food, housing, and medical needs. It also offers support to help adults find and keep jobs.

Eligibility Requirements:

- ✓ Must have a disability that affects daily life
- ✓ Must be 18 or older
- ✓ Must be a resident of Ontario
- ✓ Must meet income and asset limits

When do you apply?

ODSP benefits begin at the age of 18 but individuals can apply for ODSP 6 months before their 18th birthday.

Applications can be completed online on this [link](#)

What documents do you need to apply?

- ✓ SIN
- ✓ Health Card
- ✓ Birth Certificate
- ✓ Immigration documents (if applicable)
- ✓ Income Tax Return (if applicable)
- ✓ Up to Date Banking Information

Applying for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)

DSO is the access point for all adult developmental services funded in Ontario. This includes housing support, community programs, personal care, and the Passport Program.

Check Eligibility – You must be at least 18 years old and have a developmental disability.

Contact DSO – Find your local Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) office at www.dsontario.ca.

Complete the Application – A DSO representative will guide you through the forms and assessments.

Eligibility Confirmation – If approved, you'll be referred to services like the Passport Program and housing support.

What Documents Do You Need to Apply?

- ✓ Proof of Age (e.g., birth certificate)
- ✓ Proof of Ontario Residence (e.g., health card)
- ✓ Psychological Assessment (including scores on cognitive and adaptive functioning, and age of onset)

What is the Passport Program?

The Passport Program provides \$5,500 per year to support adults with disabilities. Families submit receipts for eligible expenses like activities, personal support, and respite care to get reimbursed.

To qualify, individuals must be eligible for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO). Once DSO confirms eligibility at age 18, they are referred to a local Passport agency to receive funding.

Benefits to Accessing Passport Funding

- ✓ Helps adults with disabilities participate in activities and gain new skills
- ✓ Provides funding for personal care, community programs, and respite care
- ✓ Supports independence by helping with daily living needs
- ✓ Encourages social engagement and community involvement
- ✓ Enhances opportunities for learning and personal growth

For more information, visit passporthn.ca.

Other Considerations When Planning for Graduation and/or Post-21 Transitions

- Some students may need structured day programs, such as those offered by [Community Living Ontario](#).
- Ensure access to healthcare professionals and specialized services as one transitions to adult care.
(Start those conversations early, before they age out of their current care)
- Explore programs like the [Developmental Services Ontario \(DSO\)](#) for housing resources.
- Living at home with your family may make you eligible for support with daily activities from a Personal Support Worker. For more information about home care services, contact [Ontario Health at Home](#).
- You can register for the following to support travel for adults with intellectual and/or physical disabilities.
[Wheel-Trans](#)
[Support Person Assistance Card Fair](#)
[Pass Discount](#)

Resources and Links to Support Transition Planning

[TDSB Transition support: A resource guide for parents/guardians/caregivers](#)

This site offers tips, tools, and resources to support students with special education needs or disabilities as they transition to post- secondary. It also connects families with helpful services and support.

[Connectability](#) .

Accessible, self-directed access to valuable information and tools, including local news and event flyers, and directories such as fee for service (purchased through passport funding)

[Planning for Beyond Graduation](#)

A practical, action-focused resource to help you know where to get started as you begin to prepare for the transition to adult life beyond graduation

[Toronto Central Health Line](#)

Directory of services which support people living with intellectual or physical disabilities

[Surrey Place-Resources While You Wait](#)

This website provides provides a comprehensive list of resources and services for individuals with developmental disabilities who are waiting for Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) funded services.