



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: Directors of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services
Directors of Approved Private Special Education Programs (APSEPs)

FROM: Bryan Klimkiewicz, Special Education Division Director *BK*

DATE: November 4, 2019

SUBJECT: Changes to Statutory Transition Services Requirements Effective July 1, 2019

The Connecticut Legislature recently passed [Public Act No. 19-49](#), *An Act Concerning Transitional Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder*, which amends subdivision (9) of subsection (a) of Section 10-76d of the Connecticut General Statutes and requires that:

The planning and placement team shall, in accordance with the provision of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC 1400, et seq., as amended from time to time, develop and update annually a statement of transition service needs for each child requiring special education. **Commencing no later than the date on which the first individual education program takes effect for a child who is at least fourteen years of age and diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder**, such program shall include (A) appropriate measurable postsecondary goals based upon age-appropriate transition assessments related to training, education, employment and, where appropriate, independent living skills; and (B) the transition services, including courses of study, needed to assist a child in reaching those goals. The individual education program shall be updated annually thereafter in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as requiring the Department of Rehabilitation Services to lower the age of transition services for a child with disabilities from sixteen to fourteen years of age.

Any Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meeting held after July 1, 2019, must meet this new requirement. LEAs must ensure that transition planning and services for students requiring special education meets all provisions of the IDEA, including, but not limited to:

- [Section 300.43 Transition services](#);
- [Section 300.320 Definition of individualized education program](#); and
- [Section 300.321 IEP Team](#).

In order to assist LEAs with this new statutory requirement, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has created a new transition report in SEDAC which lists all students who were age 13 last October 1st, with a primary disability category of Autism (similar to the transition planning report available for all students age 15 and over).

Although transition services are required beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 14 (with the diagnoses of Autism) and beginning not later than the first IEP to be in effect when the child turns 16, or younger if determined appropriate by the PPT (for all other primary disability categories), the CSDE, Bureau of Special Education reminds PPTs of their responsibility to make transition planning decisions on an individualized basis and consistent with the student's individualized needs regardless of the diagnoses or disability category.

For additional information, resources and professional learning opportunities, visit our webpage: [Secondary Transition - Planning from School to Adult Life](#). Questions can be directed to Alycia M. Trakas, by e-mail at Alycia.Trakas@ct.gov or by phone at 860-713-6932.

BK:at
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