



Post-Secondary Planning for Minnetonka Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's)

“Given the right environment, support and tools,
all students can succeed.”

November 21, 2019



An overview of this presentation

- Post-secondary planning – notes for the parent
- Profile from Minnetonka High School
- Post-secondary planning – notes for the student
- 6 sample programs
- Where do we go from here? – and our pledge!



Post-secondary planning – Notes for the parent

1. Preparation for postsecondary education needs to start early in your student's high school years. At an IEP meeting, you and your student should ask the high school staff for their suggestion of which postsecondary option (e.g., technical school, community college, 4-year university, apprenticeship, or job) may be the most appropriate.
2. You may have to plant the idea that post-high school education is an important part of your expectations and that you will help your student prepare for the appropriate educational path.
3. Work with your student's high school teachers and support staff including the counselor, 504 coordinator, and case manager. At an IEP meeting, ask about transition activities that would prepare your student for the postsecondary education that is most fitting.



Post-secondary planning

4. Contact the disability services office of several postsecondary institutions, or research their websites for information that describes the services the school offers to students with disabilities. At this stage, you and your student will want to compare what is offered at each institution as well as admission requirements such as ACT scores, GPA, academic course requirements, etc.
5. Ensure that your student has recent testing which is usually required by postsecondary institutions to document a disability. Have the assessment report and copies of your student's most recent IEP available for the postsecondary disability services staff to ease the implementation of postsecondary accommodations.



Post-secondary planning

6. Consult your student's case manager about a referral to vocational rehabilitation services to determine if they meet the rehabilitation services' disability guidelines. Rehabilitation services can help with financial and equipment support for some students with disabilities.
7. Your student could also contact the Social Security administration to see if they meet the guidelines for a disability.
8. If your student decides to take the ACT or SAT tests, they should learn the process for requesting testing accommodations from our SSD Coordinator, Shelly Hughes. If a student needs testing accommodations, the need must be documented, which can be supported by reports from the MHS special education office or from a medical professional or psychologist.



Post-secondary planning

9. You and your student should visit a few postsecondary institutions, or apprenticeship programs, or job training sites, before deciding on the best plan.
10. Remember your student has the responsibility to notify the postsecondary institution that they have a disability and need services. The postsecondary institution has the responsibility to provide appropriate accommodations so that students with disabilities are given equal access to courses, programs, and events.

Note: Information from the brochure, [A High School Parent's Guide to College](#), published by Normandale Community College



Minnetonka High School – Profile from 2018 & 2019

- % attending 4 year colleges 79%
- % attending 2 year colleges 11%
- % attending MN institutions 39%
- % attending out-of-state institutions 51%



Post-secondary planning – Notes for the student

Questions to ask:

- **An absolute must: conduct a self-inventory or self-assessment**
- What do you like to do?
- What do you hate to do?
- What subject excites you?
- What always bores you?
- How do you learn best?



Self inventory (cont.)

- Do you enjoy being a part of a large group? Or, do smaller groups suit you better? Do you like working by yourself?
- Do you want to stick close to home? Or, continue to live at home? Or, do you plan to move far away?
- Do you want to live in or near a city? Or, could you find happiness in a college town?
- Do you seek out diversity among your friends? Or, do you hang out with people who are very similar to you?
- Have you thought about what you would like to do when you are 25? Or, 30?







A closer look at a few opportunities

1. Beyond Limits program, Bethany Global University

A two-year, residential post-secondary Christian experience and life skills certificate for qualified young adult students. Independent living skills courses, and on-campus job placement.

<https://beyondlimitscollege.org/>

2. BUILD at Bethel University

Integrated two-year post-secondary, residential program with opportunities for inclusive academic, vocational, spiritual, and social learning experiences. Students earn a Certificate of Applied Studies with a career pathway in arts and communication, business, or human relations.

<https://www.bethel.edu/academics/build/>



Opportunities, continued

3. CLASS at Augsburg University

Provides access and inclusion for students with disabilities by partnering with the campus community to provide accommodations, resources and education.

<https://www.augsburg.edu/class/>

4. Pathway Program at North Dakota State University

Collaboration between NDSU and North Dakota State College of Science that helps prepare students for the academic rigors of college-level coursework. Pathway students live at NDSU and take coursework at NDSCS.

https://www.ndsu.edu/admission/how_to_apply/first_year/pathway



Opportunities, continued

5. Alexandria Technical and Community College

Offers Advanced Technical Certificate in several trades: cybersecurity, diesel mechanics, law enforcement, machine tool, mechatronics, and powersports. Hands-on, student-centered, experiential learning.

<https://www.alextech.edu/>

6. Beacon College

First college in the country to award bachelor degrees exclusively to students with learning disabilities, ADHD, and other learning differences. The group of parents who founded Beacon College did so knowing that given the right environment, support, and tools, all students can succeed. Four-year graduation rate of 83%, which far surpasses the national average.

<https://www.beaconcollege.edu/>



Additional resources – on the Internet!

<https://student.naviance.com/minnetonka>

<http://www.collegeboard.org>

<http://fairtest.org/>

<http://www.finaid.org>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator>

<https://collegecost.ed.gov>



Where do we go from here? – and our pledge!

- 9 School Counselors + 1 College Counselor
- Personalization offered to each student, with support from case managers, 504 Coordinator, social workers, teachers and administrators
- Our pledge – to help each student find the best possible match for their post-secondary experience!

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