



Life **BEYOND** *High School*

TRANSITION PLANNING

Getting Started

**for students with intellectual
and developmental disabilities**



- ✓ Explore the transition pathway and begin planning supports and services for life after high school.



Talk to your Classroom Teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher, or Transition Coordinator for more information and resources.

TRANSITION PATHWAY



- ✓ Attend all Individual Education Plan (IEP), Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) and Transition Planning meetings and discuss long term transition planning.
- ✓ Apply for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC)
- ✓ Open and contribute to Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)
- ✓ Explore community supports and services for life after high school.

HELPFUL TIP

This is a suggested timeline for transition events. If you're older than a certain age but haven't completed the tasks for that age, please make sure to finish them.



- ✓ Begin collecting/preparing documentation for future applications.

- **Birth Certificate**
- **Health Card**, also called an OHIP card
- **Social Insurance Number**, also called SIN
- **Passport**

- ✓ Open a **bank account**.
- ✓ Obtain a copy or request a **Psychological Assessment***.
- ✓ Apply for an **Access2 Card**.
- ✓ Explore Transit Supports and Services in Durham Region.

HELPFUL TIP

Begin exploring Community Supports & Services!



- ✓ Apply for **Developmental Services Ontario** (DSO).

To apply you will need:

- 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*

- ✓ Apply for an **Ontario Photo Card**.

HELPFUL TIP

When you apply for DSO, you are also applying for Passport Program funding.



- ✓ If student is beneficiary of a RDSP, begin filing personal income tax returns to ensure the continuity of grants and bonds at 19 years old.

- ✓ Apply for **Ontario Disability Support Program** (ODSP).

To apply you will need:

- SIN Card
- Health Card
- Banking information
- Immigration Documents (if applicable)
- Tax returns (if applicable)

HELPFUL TIP

Having a letter of eligibility from DSO can help speed up the process of applying for ODSP.



- ✓ **Adult Funding and Services begin.** (i.e., DSO funded services, Passport funding, ODSP income support and benefits)

- ✓ **Begin planning supports and services needed for life after high school.**

(i.e., learning about transit services, explore options for support workers, tour and meet with local day programs).

HELPFUL TIP

Call DSO 6 months before leaving high school to let them know you are looking for supports and services!

*DDSB supports provision of Psychological Assessments without precedence and subject to annual review of resources.

General Considerations

- ✓ Attend all Individual Education Plan (IEP meetings, and Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meetings and discuss long term transition planning.

✓ Apply for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

- WHAT:** The DTC is a non-refundable tax credit, that helps people with a disability, or their supporting family member reduce the amount of income tax they have to pay.
- WHY:** It is also required to open a **Registered Disability Savings Plan** (see more information in the next section).
- WHO:** To be eligible for DTC a person must (1) have a severe impairment in physical or mental functions, (2) the impairment must be prolonged, and (3) must be restricted at least 90% of the time.
- WHEN:** There is no age requirement, meaning if you qualify you can apply at any age.
- HOW:** Apply for DTC by completing Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) form T2201.

✓ Open and contribute to Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP).

- WHAT:** The RDSP is a savings plan for people with disabilities intended to support long-term financial security. RDSP are made up of personal contributions, and bonds and grants contributed by the federal government.
- WHY:** Having RDSP does not affect **Ontario Disability Support Program** eligibility (see more information about ODSP, under 17.5 years old)
- WHO:** To be a beneficiary of RDSP a person must (1) qualify for Disability Tax Credit, (2) have a valid Social Insurance Number, (3) be resident of Canada, and (4) be under the age of 60.
- WHEN:** After qualifying for Disability Tax Credit, an RDSP can be opened until 59 years old.
- HOW:** If the RDSP beneficiary is under 19, a legal parent, guardian, or public department, agency or institution can open an RDSP as a Plan Holder. Plan holders can contact participating financial institutions that offer RDSPs.



14-15
years old

✓ Begin collecting/preparing documentation for future applications.

- **Social Insurance Number**, also called SIN
- **Health Card**, also called an OHIP card
- **Passport**
- **Birth Certificate**

✓ Open a bank account

WHAT: A bank account can be used for everyday payments and savings.

WHY: Having a separate bank account provides important benefits when it comes to employment, cashing cheques, safety and accessibility. When you apply for ODSP, financial assistance will be deposited directly into your bank account.

HOW: You can open a bank account online, in person or by calling a financial institution. You will either need to provide two pieces of identification, or provide one piece of identification and have someone who is in good standing with the bank or community confirm your identity.

✓ Start learning about Transit Supports and Services offered in Durham Region.

For more information see page 12.



✓ Obtain a copy or request a **Psychological Assessment***

WHAT: A psychological assessment is a written evaluation of an individual's behaviour, abilities and other characteristics and capabilities completed by a psychologist or psychological associate.

WHY: It is required for Developmental Services Ontario (DSO) application. Specifically, DSO requires assessments containing information on **Cognitive Functioning**, and **Adaptive Skills**.

WHO: You can request a copy or make a request to have a psychological assessment completed by either:

- **Contacting your Physician**
- **Contacting your Teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher (SERT), or Curriculum Lead**

✓ Apply for an **Access2 Card**.

WHAT: The Access 2 Card is a program that allows cardholders to eliminate or reduce admission fees for accompanying support persons.

WHY: Presenting an Access 2 card at participating venues decreases admission fees for a support person.

WHO: To be eligible for an Access 2 Card, individuals must (1) live with a permanent disability, and (2) the nature of the disability requires the assistance of a support person when visiting venues.

WHEN: The Access 2 card is for all ages and types of permanent disabilities that require the assistance of a support person.

HOW: To apply for an Access 2 Card individuals must complete an application and pay the administration fee.

*DDSB supports provision of Psychological Assessments without precedence and subject to annual review of resources.

16
years old

✓ Apply for **Developmental Services Ontario (DSO)**.

WHAT: DSO is the access point for all adult developmental services that are funded in Ontario. Government funded services include, the **Passport Program***, Housing Supports, Community Participation Supports, Caregiver Respite Supports and Specialized Supports such as Person Directed Planning, and Adult Protective Services.

WHY: At 18 years old all children's developmental services end, such as Special Services at Home (SSAH), Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD), and Ontario Autism Program (OAP). DSO is the adult funded supports. Having a letter of eligibility for DSO will also help speed the process of applying for the **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**.

WHO: To be eligible for DSO, individuals must (1) have a developmental disability, (2) live in Ontario, and (3) be 18 years or older.

DSO services begin at 18 years old, however, individuals can apply for DSO at 16 years old.

HOW: Individuals can apply when they have:

- **Proof of age** (i.e., birth certificate)
- **Proof of Ontario residence** (i.e., health card)
- **Psychological Assessment with scores on Cognitive and Adaptive Functioning and age of onset.**

💡 *What is the **Passport Program**?

WHAT: Passport is a reimbursement program where people and families submit invoices and receipts for admissible expenses. Then we reimburse admissible expenses up to the amount of the annual funding allocation of \$5,500.

WHY: Passport funding can be used to help individuals get involved in their community, by providing funding that can be used to purchase services and supports for community participation, activities of daily living and person-directed planning.

WHO: To be receive Passport funding individuals must be eligible for DSO.

WHEN: Passport funding begins at 18 years old.

HOW: Once DSO has determined eligibility for funded services, individuals must consent to a referral to the Passport Program. This happens during the DSO application process. Individuals will then be referred to a local Passport agency to receive funds.

✓ Apply for an **Ontario Photo Card**.

WHAT: The Ontario Photo Card is a government issued identification available to Ontarians who do not have a driver's licence.

WHY: Having an Ontario Photo card makes it easier for individuals to do things that require official identification (i.e., open a bank account, domestic travel).

WHO: Available for individuals who (1) do not/will not have a driver's licence, (2) are an Ontario resident, and (3) are 16 years of age or older.

WHEN: 16 years of age or older.

HOW: To obtain an Ontario Photo card individuals must go to a ServiceOntario centre and bring documents to prove their legal name and date of birth (i.e., passport, birth certificate, health card).

17
years old

- ✓ If student is beneficiary of a RDSP, begin filing personal income tax returns to ensure the continuity of grants and bonds at 19 years old.

17.5
years old

- ✓ Apply for **Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)**.

WHAT: The Ontario Disability Support Program provides financial and job support for people with disabilities. It helps cover costs like food, housing, and medical needs, including drug and vision care. ODSP also offer assistance to help you find and keep jobs.

WHY: ODSP offers valuable supports for individuals with disabilities and is the only government financial assistance for people with disabilities.

WHO: To be eligible for ODSP, individuals must (1) be 18 years or older, (2) be an Ontario resident, (3) have assets that are no greater than the limits set out by ODSP, (4) be in financial need, and (4) meet ODSP's definition of a person with a disability.

WHEN: ODSP income and health benefits begin at 18 years old, however individuals can apply for ODSP at 17.5 (6 months before their 18th birthday).

HOW: To apply for ODSP individuals will need the following documents:

- **SIN**
- **Health Card**
- **Birth Certificate**
- **Immigration documents** (if applicable)
 - › This may include Unique Client Identifier and/or Sponsor Information.
- **Income Tax Return** (if applicable)
 - › This is only for individuals who have filed a personal income tax return.
- **Up to date banking information**

Applications can be completed online, sada.mcass.gov.on.ca/intake/home-page, by calling, **1-888-999-1142**, or visiting the ODSP office, **850 King St W, Oshawa, ON, L1J 2L5**.



18-21
years old

- ✓ At 18 years old children services and funding end, this includes **Special Services at Home (SSAH)**, **Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities (ACSD)**, and **Ontario Autism Program (OAP)**.

- ✓ **Passport funding** and **ODSP income support and health benefits** start.

- ✓ Explore transit services through **Durham Region Transit**.

TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (TAP)



- **The Transit Assistance Program** is for customers receiving social assistance (including ODSP) in Durham Region.
- To apply for TAP, individuals can bring their **monthly social assistance statement** to a DRT PRESTO point of sale.

SUPPORT PERSON CARD



- **The Support Person Card** is available for customers who require the support of another person as it relates to communication, mobility, personal care or medical needs.
- The correct fare is to be paid by the customer, and the support person travels for free when the support person card is presenting upon boarding.
- Cards are valid for 3 years.

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SPECIALIZED SERVICES



- **Durham Region Transit (DRT) Specialized Services** provides public transit service for eligible persons with disabilities who are unable to use conventional transit services for all or part of their ride.
- Individuals must complete an application package.
- **DRT** will confirm eligibility by mail.
- For more information visit <https://www.durhamregiontransit.com/en/routes-and-schedules/on-demand-specialized.aspx> or call 1-866-247-0055

- ✓ Begin planning supports and services needed for life after high school (i.e., learning about transit services, explore options for support workers, tour and meet with local day programs).

WHAT:

Supports and services for life after high school will look different for everyone. They may include:

- **Continuing Education**
- **Employment/Volunteer**
- **Community**

WHY:

Planning for supports and services before leaving school is important as there may be wait times, registration periods, fees, or other considerations to be aware of. These may impact how quickly individuals will be able to access supports and services.

WHO:

Planning supports and services for after high school is important for all students.

- You can explore supports and services by:
- Attending DDSB's annual **Life Beyond High School Event** or checking out the **Life Beyond High School Transition Supports webpage**, ddsb.ca/en/family-and-community-support/life-beyond-high-school-transition-supports
- Talk to your Classroom Teacher, Special Education Resource Teacher, or Transition Coordinator for more information and resources!

OTHER TRANSITION PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

HOME & LIVING SITUATIONS



There isn't a single 'right' or 'best way' to live. Choices about home and living situations are influenced by personal preferences, needs, finances, resources and what's available.

***Please be aware that wait times for government funded housing can be long, depending on priority and need.**

Examples of housing options that focus on the needs of adults with intellectual disabilities might include:

LIVING WITH FAMILY

Living with your family in your family home. You may qualify for support with activities of daily living from a Personal Support Worker.

Contact Ontario Health atHome if you are interested in learning more about home care services.



SUPPORTED INDEPENDENT LIVING

Living more independently, with someone to help with daily activities. You receive between 2-10 hours of support during the day every week. You are alone overnight.

Contact Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) if you are interested in learning more about this option.

GROUP HOME LIVING

Living with a few unrelated people, with support 24 hours per day and accommodate you based on your needs and abilities.

Contact Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) if you are interested in learning more about this option.

HOST FAMILY HOME/ASSOCIATE LIVING SUPPORT

You live with a family who can provide you with care and support. You are encouraged to become an active member of the household. You are matched with a family that has similar interests, needs, and lifestyle.

Contact Developmental Service Ontario (DSO) if you are interested in learning more about this option.



CREATIVE HOUSING OPTIONS

Explore innovative, forward-thinking housing options, by exploring some of the resources listed below.



Housing Toolkit

from Developmental Services Ontario



Housing Resources

from ConnectABILITY.ca



Housing Navigator for DSO Central East Region

Kathrine Pickard
1 855 277 2121 ext. 2218 or
kpickard@yssn.ca



A Place to Call Home, Housing Resources

from Partners For Planning (P4P)



Imagining Home Meetings

offered by Durham Association for
Family Resources and Support

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS



Legal considerations may apply to young adults with intellectual disabilities, depending on their needs and situation.

Examples of legal considerations may include supported decision making and/or substitute decision making for property & personal care, legal guardianship, estate planning, trusts, Microboards and more!

Check out the resources for more information on Legal Considerations:

- [Future Planning Tool from Plan Institute](#)
- [Planning Guide from Individual Funding \(IF\) Library](#)
- [Legal and Estate Planning Resources from Partners for Planning](#)
- [Financial and Legal Resources from ConnectABILITY.ca](#)



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NOTES:



**SCAN
ME!**

