

Texas Milestones

Soon after diagnosis

- Sign up for all the Waiver Interest Lists.
- Build a positive support circle (friends, other parents, support groups)
- Find Early Intervention (EI) and Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
- Explore [Applied Behavior Analysis](#) (ABA) and other therapies.

Reaching School Age

- Review the IDEA Parent Guide to help you advocate for your child's education.
- Request and prepare for an evaluation from your school:
 - o Individual Education Program (IEP) describes the special education instruction, supports, and services that your child will receive
 - o 504 Plan removes barriers, makes accommodations, and adds assistive technology.
- Learn about the ARD process and prepare at SpedTX. Consider a special needs advocate.

Entering High School

- Meet with your ARD committee on your child's transition plan out of the school system.
- Meet with Texas Workforce Commission for summer job opportunities.

Becoming an Adult

- Apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Open an ABLE account
- Find safety classes for living, traveling, and working.
- Meet with a special needs attorney to set up Guardianship (or alternatives) and a Special Needs Trust
- Create a plan or Letter of Intent (LOI) for and share with professionals and your support circle.
- Health Care Transition process of getting youth ready for health care as an adult.
- Learn about transportation options, including Rideshare (Uber/Lyft), Buses, DART, Rides to appointments through [insurance](#)/Medicaid, and Volunteer Drivers.

Before Graduation & Beyond

- Explore opportunities outside of the home to strengthen daily living and vocation skills.
- Consider higher and continued education options/colleges in Texas:
 - o Austin Community College in Austin – <https://continue.austincc.edu/steps>
 - o Texas A&M University Achieve - <https://aggieachieve.tamu.edu/>
 - o West Texas A&M University in Canyon – [Where the Learning Continues \(WTLC\)](#).
 - o Lone Star College in Cypress – <https://www.lonestar.edu/news/20518.htm>
 - o Houston Community College in Houston – <https://www.hccs.edu/continuing-education/departments/hcc-vast-academy/>
 - o University of North Texas ELEVAR Program - <https://elevar.unt.edu/index.html>
- Continue or find Employment with the help of [Vocational Rehabilitation](#) (VR) at the Texas Workforce Commission.
- Explore independent living options.